Seventh-day Adventist women clean up Beach Road area. PAGE 2
Joeten Superstore, Triple J Payless host 'Celebrity Bagging.' PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CNMI PLEA FOR CHINA-FLIGHT CAP EXEMPTION UNANSWERED AFTER NEARLY A YEAR

'Time is of the essence in this matter'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DeLeon Guerrero

The CNMI's plea for an exemption to the current U.S.-China flight cap has been sitting with the U.S Department of Transportation for nearly a year without a response.

The CNMI continues to plunge deeper into a world of hurt as businesses close their doors and both the private and government sectors continue

See TIME on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Two lines form outside the Pedro P Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe just minutes before the start of the Department of Labor's Job Fair last Friday.

Hundreds of jobseekers attend 'Your Career Goals, Our Mission!' job fair

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Long lines formed outside the Pedro P Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last Friday, as hundreds flocked to the Department of Labor's "Your Career Goals, Our Mission!" job fair in search of new opportunities.

Six job preparedness entities and 17 employers joined DOL's latest job fair and Employment Services director Eugene Tebuteb said he was happy with the response from jobseekers and especially employers who wanted to participate that morning.

"During our last job fair, which was last year, we had about 700 jobseekers. We are hoping to get close to that number or a match it, because despite what

See HUNDREDS on Page 4

Man pleads not guilty for possession of 'meth'

CHRYSTAL MARINO

John P. Deleon Guerrero is escorted out of his preliminary hearing last June 18 at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe. Yesterday Deleon Guerrero pled not guilty to all counts against him.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly caught in possession of crystal methamphetamine and three firearms last May 7 has pled not guilty to all eight charges against him.

See MAN on Page 4

San Nicolas criticizes Castro's opinion on tax decentralization

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The decentralization of CNMI-wide taxes became a hot topic between Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Tinian) and Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) during a recent House special session.

San Nicolas

Castro

Last June 26, during a House special session, House minority leader San Nicolas introduced House Local Bill 23-55, a measure that would enact a revenue surtax on construction companies on Tinian with revenues of $250,000 or more. Exempted from the bill are revenues derived from the construction of primary residences on Tinian.

In a statement from San

See TAX on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

About a year and a half ago, a lawyer for Julian Assange presented federal prosecutors in Virginia with a longshot request: Dismiss the case against the WikiLeaks founder.

PAGE 9

BUSINESS

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union announced that it has renewed its sponsorship of Guam professional triathlete, Manami Iijima Martin, as part of the Community First Acts of Community Program.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

"A Quiet Place: Day One" is making noise at the box office. The prequel earned an estimated $53 million in its first weekend in North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Seventh-day Adventist women clean up Beach Road area

By JOCELYN B. SONSONA, PHD
Special to the Saipan Tribune

After the sun rises on the morning every last Sunday of the month, the women from the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Church comb the beach and pathway along Beach Road with only one intent—to clean up the beach area. Armed with rubber gloves, garbage bags on hand and hats to shield from the heat of the sun, the women tackle a couple of miles picking up litters and debris left by careless beach goers or passersby. Most common trash gathered by the group are soda cans, cigarette butts, water bottles, plastic bags, Styrofoam cups, bento food packs, candy wrappers, broken glasses, plastic cutleries, and fishing lines. The latest big haul was a car mudguard.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Church Women Ministry with their haul including a car mud guard.

It is a known fact that the buildup of plastic debris and trash on beaches brings potential harm to the physical habitats threatening aquatic life and interfering with human uses of marine and coastal environments. Additionally, the unsightly garbage and debris reduces the attractiveness of our natural beach landscape to tourists and local residents.

Preservation of our environment by keeping it clean has a spiritual implication. "Taking good care of our environment is an expression of our love to God," according to Yvette Mahinay, SDA Women's Ministries leader. "As His stewards, we are helping maintain the cleanliness of our environment, including the beautiful beaches in Saipan," Mahinay added.

Charie Restauro, assistant leader of the group, shared her gratefulness in being a part of this undertaking. "In my participation cleaning the beach, I have the opportunity to help not only our community but also our mother nature," Restauro said. "Picking up trash on the side of the road gives me joy that even in small way I have helped to keep our environment clean and beautiful because everything the Lord has created, including our environment, is good."

Cleaning up our beaches brings immense economic cost for the local government. The SDA Women Ministry hopes that this monthly community service helps preserve our coastline, promotes tourism industry for the island and contributes to the reduction of government's maintenance cost in keeping our Saipan clean and beautiful. Most importantly, the team is hopeful that each individual who uses our beaches will be mindful and responsible to help keep our oceanfront alluring and debris-free. After all, "cleanliness is next to godliness."

Anyone interested to join in the cleanup drive is welcome to participate. For more details, contact Mahinay at yvettemahinay@yaho.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The most common trash gathered by the group are soda cans, cigarette butts, water bottles, plastic bags, Styrofoam cups, bento food packs, candy wrappers, broken glasses, plastic cutleries, and fishing lines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The team is hopeful that each individual who use our beaches will be mindful and responsible to help keep our oceanfront alluring and debris-free.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/WIC-020

CNMI WIC PROGRAM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 3, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM (EHDP)
RFP24-CHCC/EHDP-017

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

" PERMITTING AND INSPECTION DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Joeten Superstore, Triple J Payless host 'Celebrity Bagging'

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan simultaneously held its first "Celebrity Bagging" at Joeten Superstore in San Jose and Triple J Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in Susupe last Saturday from 9am to 10am.

A total of 200 reusable bags were distributed at Joeten Superstore and Triple J Payless SuperFresh, according to Rotary president Irene Holl. The reusable bags were purchased by the club.

"We bought the bags and would like to thank our Rotary member Marie Javier of SM for helping us ship the bags here from Philippines."

Government officials, leaders in private agencies, and community role models who belong to Rotary served as celebrities of the "Celebrity Bagging." They volunteered to bag groceries for an hour while spreading awareness of the benefits of reducing the use of plastic bags.

"One of Rotary International's newest area of focus is the environment. Our objective is to support activities that strengthen conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment," according to Rotary Club of Saipan Community Services director Billy Grow

He also mentioned that they plan to keep doing another "Celebrity Bagging" this Rotary year 2024-2025 to continue supporting Rotary International initiatives to safeguard our environment.

The Rotary Club of Saipan will have its installation of officers for the Rotary Year 2024-2025 this coming Saturday from 6pm to 10pm at the Queens Hall of Kensington Hotel.

RACQUEL FLOYD

During the Celebrity Bagging, Rotary Club of Saipan members pose with the reusable bags at Joeten Superstore in San Jose last Saturday. From left, Connie Quidato, Joeten Superstore supervisor, with Rotarians Greg Borja, Irene Holl, Glen Perez, Jason Sablan, Charles Cepeda, and Billy Grow.

Name: Leonida A. Orejola
Address: P.O. Box 7196
SVRB, Saipan MP 96950
Phone: (670) 989-4005

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct:	]	FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0252
	]	NOTICE OF HEARING
Leonida A. Orejola Petitioner(s)	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONNA P. MIAH Petitioner,	]	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0255
vs.	]	
	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
JULHAS MIAH Respondent,	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8010 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special Seaport Facilities Committee meeting is being called on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, ADOPTION OF AGENDA

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM:
1. CPA Seaports' Stevedoring Services
2. Rota West Harbor's Stevedoring Services

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.
Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

RAMON A. TEBUTEB
Chairman, Seaport Facilities Committee

BANK OF SAIPAN
MARIANAS PRIDE

DORMANT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Lau Lau Main Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2024.

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2024, will be paid to the "CNMI TREASURER" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2024 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

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SAIPAN, MP 96950

JODINA C ATTAO
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SINORAIN CORPORATION
SYSTEM EXPRESS
PMB 38 BOX 10003
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ROMAN R TORWAL
PO BOX 505495
SAIPAN, MP 96950

COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT
JOHN PAUL P SABLAN
AND ELECT MANNY
GREGORY T CASTRO
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SAIPAN, MP 96950

MABELLE T SUBANG
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Lt. Col. Edward C. Camacho retires

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Camacho

Lt. Col. Edward C. Camacho, who served in the US Army for 43 years, retired last June 26.

Camacho, 62 years old, was born and raised on Saipan. He joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18, as an Army Reserve soldier, in December 1980.

He started out as a private first class with the 368th Military Police Company in Guam. n May 1984, he was promoted to second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry after receiving a commission from the University of Guam Army Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He is currently taking a vacation in Asia and around the Pacific. In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, he was asked what's his most memorable moments and assignments when he was in the Army.

"All of my assignments with troops are very memorable and rejuvenating! My assignment in Jerusalem was probably one of the most important due to the nature of my job there," he said.

Camacho has served in various locations including the Korean DMZ, Camp Casey and Hovey, Korea, Fort Drum, NY, LSA Anaconda/Joint Air Base Ballad, Iraq, Yongsan, Korea, Guam, Camp Zama, Japan, Fort Hood, TX, Camp Kalsu, Iraq, Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Fort Shafter, HI, Hofuf in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jerusalem and the West Bank in Israel and Palestine, Vicenza, Italy, and Okinawa, Japan.

He added that he intends to spend more time with his family, particularly his grandchildren after retirement.

"There are still so many things I can do to serve in a different capacity, and which ever one I get to do next I'm going to make sure that I have time for my family as much as possible."

Camacho also once served as the CNMI's DPS commissioner. On June 26, 2024 Camacho was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice, Centurion and the Meritorious Service Medal for his 40 years of service as an Infantry officer.

His family wants to extend their heartfelt congratulations to Camacho for finally retiring after 43 years of loyal service in the United States Army.

DPS shares route, road closure for LibDay Parade

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In anticipation of the 78th Liberation Day Parade on Thursday, July 4, 2024, the CNMI Department of Public Safety has issued information regarding the parade route and road closures in a press release yesterday.

With the Liberation Day parade kicking off at 10am with a flyover by the U.S. Air Force, assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon Manacop shared that DPS wanted to share the following essential details for motorists and parade attendees.

Parade route

Concerning the parade route, DPS shared that the parade will start on Beach Road Illiyan in front of National Office Supply and will conclude on Beach Road Garapan by the grand stand, just south of the Garapan Fishing Base by the Garapan Public Market.

Road closures

The intersection of Chalan Lau Lau Quartermaster traffic light to Beach Road Illiyan in front of National Office Supply will be closed starting at 7am to accommodate the parade lineup. Beach Road, from Chalan Lau Lau Quartermaster to Beach Road Garapan by Dama Di Noche Street, will be completely shut to the public beginning at 9am.

"Motorists are also asked to minimize travel along Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau by Atkins Kroll north to Quartermaster traffic signal light intersection," said Manacop in the press release.

For further inquiries, community members may contact DPS Lt. Daniel Smith of the Highway Patrol Section at (670) 664-9085.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: July 02, 2024 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2024-006	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	$90,000.00 to $100,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

TIME

From page 1

to implement drastic cost-cutting measures to stay afloat due to low tourist arrivals.

The most viable solution: A CNMI exemption to the current U.S.-China flight cap which currently allows only 50 weekly flights from China to the entire U.S. (including its territories).

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, under the leadership of former board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, launched the initiative for an exemption on this flight cap back in August 2023 which has been supported by the CNMI Legislature, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-Saipan).

Now that it's been nearly a year without a response, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has again written to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, pleading for a CNMI exemption.

"I write seeking resolution to the request detailed in my letter dated Feb. 26, 2024, to exempt the CNMI from the cap on the number of weekly flights from China to the United States, which would allow scheduled air service between China and the CNMI to resume. Although the U.S. DOT increased the number of flights from China to the United States from 35 to 50 weekly flights in March 2024, DOT has not acted on the CPA's request for reinstatement of Annex VI of the U.S.-China Air Service Agreement of 2007 and exemption from the cap on the number of flights from China to the United States," she said in her letter.

"DOT's cap on the weekly flights from China is preventing the CNMI from restoring our Chinese visitor numbers. As stated by our U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan, the CNMI should already be exempt from the 50 weekly flight cap pursuant to Annex VI which authorizes unlimited China flights to the CNMI," she adds.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HUNDREDS

From page 1

we are hearing on the news concerning our economy, we know that employers are still looking for workers. So that's why we wanted to provide the platform for them to obtain the necessary workers."

He added that last Friday's job fair will be the first of two job fairs that the Department of Labor will be holding this year with second one set for around November or December 2024.

When asked what does the large turnout that morning tell him about unemployment in the CNMI, he responded, "So if I was someone who just flew into Saipan and knew nothing about Saipan, or the CNMI, I would see that there are a lot of potential workers out here. We just got to open up the platform for them to gain access to those employers and employment." he said

Saipan Tribune was also able to speak to several jobseekers that morning, and they expressed their gratitude to DOL for the job fair, and making the platform very accessible.

"The line was pretty long outside but just coming in and seeing how many employers came out, I think it's a really great opportunity. For those who are unemployed or looking for better jobs, this is really good. All for employers, companies, and jobseekers. Employers get to see you in person, and you get to learn more about the opportunities available," said Kagman resident Vinalynn Oronigo.

Another participant, Luis Claridades, also shared his gratitude, adding that for him it was an "amazing experience, just great vibes all around." He's encouraging other young community members looking for jobs to check it out at the next job fair. "They should always come out and explore the options."

"Be open for job opportunities because there's always positions open in every level for anybody," Oronigo agreed

Tebuteb encouraged community members seeking employment that there are so many available opportunities.

"If you're looking for work, now is a great opportunity to do it," he said. "Of course you have every opportunity even after the job fair. We, the Employment Services Division of the Department of Labor, are located on Capitol Hill and we also have the Workforce Investment Agency just a few buildings next to our office. So, if you're looking for work and you need help that's what we're here to do, come on down."

In line with the theme, "Your Career Goals, Our Mission!" DOL's latest job fair is a call to foster economic growth and prosperity in the CNMI. This event aimed to bridge the gap between jobseekers and employers, providing a platform for networking, interviews, and potential employment.

TAX

From page 1

Nicolas following the special session, he expressed his profound concerns regarding statements made by Castro allegedly suggesting the decentralization of all Commonwealth-wide taxes, such as excise taxes, to apply only to individual islands like Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, in response to the introduction of House Local Bill 23-55.

"In my opinion, this suggestion is not only impractical but also reflects a profound misunderstanding of the complexities and necessities of our tax system. Rep. Castro's comments, which seem more aimed at scoring political points than fostering informed debate, undermine the collaborative efforts needed to address our fiscal challenges," said San Nicolas.

San Nicolas, who has supported House revenue bills introduced by members of the House majority in the past, criticized Castro's proposal as shortsighted and counterproductive.

"Dismantling the CNMI tax system entirely would create a fragmented and inefficient tax structure that could exacerbate our financial challenges rather than resolve them," he said.

House Local Bill 23-55, authored by San Nicolas, is a constitutionally and legally authorized proposal designed to generate much-needed local revenue for Tinian, particularly in light of the economic activities related to military construction on the island.

"This bill is a necessary response to the Department of Public Works' inability to assess a developers' tax on construction projects on Tinian, which are significantly impacting our infrastructure and community resources. It is not an attempt to undermine the CNMI-wide tax system but rather to complement it by addressing specific local needs," San Nicolas explained.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MAN

From page 1

The plea was made in front of Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja during 48-year-old John P. Deleon Guerrero's arraignment hearing yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

Deleon Guerrero, currently facing three counts of storage of a firearm, a count on removal of a firearm serial number, a count of possession of a firearm without firearm owner identification card, trafficking controlled substance, and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, under order of Naraja is set to reappear before the court on Aug. 1, 2024, at 10am for a status conference with Associate Judge Lillian Tenorio.

Tenorio presided over Deleon Guerrero's preliminary hearing last June 18, and had, due to presented testimony and evidence, found probable cause on all eight counts.

During the preliminary hearing, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, representing the government, presented testimony from a Department of Public Safety investigator and showcased photographs of the firearms. The witness confirmed these as the ones discovered in Deleon Guerrero's alleged residence.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMI Museum appoints new executive director

The Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture Board of Governors is pleased to announce the appointment of Leonard "Leni" Leon as executive director.

Leon

Leon, who is of Marshallese descent, immigrated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1990 and has since called Saipan home. His passion for Chamorro, Carolinian, and Pacific Island histories and cultures is rooted in his exposure to the CNMI's rich and diverse communities.

Leon studied film and cultural anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he co-founded the Micronesia Connections Club and a community series on O'lelo Hawaii, aimed at addressing racism against Micronesians in Hawaii through discussions surrounding Micronesian, Polynesian, and Melanesian kinship.

Leon brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the position as a strategic planner and grant writer/manager, having worked to hone his knowledge and skills with some of the most respected professionals, cultural practitioners and scholars across the Pacific. His most recent work managing projects and grants at the CNMI Office of Planning and Development make him an excellent candidate for advancing the NMI Museum's legal mandates and mission. At OPD, Leon successfully managed the Tyler EnerGov permitting module, and later two separate FEMA-Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant awards. He is known amongst his peers and colleagues for his innovative approaches to solving complex challenges.

Within the arts and culture communities, Leon is recognized as a dynamic cultural artist and advocate through his work as a shell carver, photographer, and filmmaker. Outside of the CNMI, Leon is best known for his independent photojournalism series which garnered the attention of global media, including Al Jazeera, Hawaii's Civil Beat, and the Washington Post documenting the devastation and destruction to our islands following Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to be part of the NMI Museum team. I hold great respect for the NMI Museum's commitment to preserve and share Marianas history and heritage. I see the great opportunities for the Museum to bridge communities through culture, history, and art through collaboration with our local and Pacific-wide partners," said Leon.

According to Leo Pangelinan, the Museum's board chairperson, "the board is looking forward to working in partnership with Mr. Leon to strengthen and elevate the NMI Museum as a community cultural pillar. We are excited to have someone of his caliber and experience to lead the stewardship of our cultural and historical artifacts and implement innovative programs and spaces for our local communities and visitors alike to learn from and appreciate our NMI history and culture."

Leon assumes the position of executive director for the NMI Museum of History & Culture on July 1, 2024. The mission of the Museum is to acquire, interpret, and exhibit artifacts and other materials to increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the rich history and cultural traditions of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DPS-42400114

SUBMISSION DATE: July 18, 2024
TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"Purchase of Two (2) Class "I" Vehicles for the Department of Public Safety, Saipan Highway Patrol"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARGARITA CAMACHO AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE VIA EMAIL OR TELEPHONE AT mdlgcamacho@dps.gov.mp or at (670) 664 - 9122.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DPS-42400109 CIF TINIAN & ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: July 18, 2024
TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"Purchase of Two (2) Class "J" (CARGO VAN) Vehicles for the Department of Public Safety, Tinian and Rota Highway Patrol"

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/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-024
OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-24-024, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations."* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 12, 2024.** Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 21, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal, in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN C. MAFNAS
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 08-2024

Opening date: June 24, 2024 **Closing date: July 12, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN	**SALARY**
Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
(1) Executive/Board Secretary	PL 17/1 to 17/12 ($15.85/hr to $27.12/hr)
Location: TINIAN	**SALARY**
Position(s): (4) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
Location: ROTA SEAPORT	**SALARY**
Position(s): (1) General Maintenance-II	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 12, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Laying down roots—Help migrants get settled

The arrival of the summer often means travel. For some migrants it'll bring trips back to NYC, from which they were already relocated once, and without a clear future plan for where they'll end up or how they'll continue to navigate life in the United States.

About 1,500 migrants in temporary emergency shelter upstate will be brought back to the city, with officials drawing up plans for further placements. At least they waited until kids were out of school.

Obviously, this game of hot potato with human beings helps no one and Gov. Hochul has been AWOL, leaving it up to localities like NYC.

The back and forth is not better for the migrants themselves, whose ability to actually establish new lives in the United States now seems perennially delayed and interrupted; it's not good for NYC, which might have to accommodate them in an already strained alternate shelter system; and it's not even necessarily good for the counties that the migrants are leaving, which often suffer from declining populations.

We understand that some of these counties complain about having capacity issues in accommodating the arrivals, not least because they've often engaged in short-sighted opposition to additional housing construction, which is a debt that always comes due eventually.

But with the proper support, all sorts of places can turn their relationship with asylum seekers into a symbiotic one, where the latter receive stability and work and the former get as dedicated a new workforce as possible, not to mention injections of cultural experience.

Those supports should be coming from the federal government, which is very well versed and equipped in providing them. It's been doing so for decades, and in a formal, systematized way since the Refugee Act of 1980 (which, by the way, passed in the Senate by a vote of 85-0, in an era where both parties understood that the United States both had a special responsibility towards global humanitarian migrants and could benefit hugely from their arrival).

So far, the Biden White House has rebuffed these entreaties, made by this and other newspapers, advocacy groups, elected officials and others. It has also refused to allocate significant funding for localities to just enact these types of programs themselves, generally preferring a light touch in a futile effort to avoid the radioactivity of immigration as a political issue.

This has failed, largely because the administration's silence has only enabled confusion and political counter-messaging that is unfortunately turning the public against immigration altogether, to our own detriment.

Hopefully, this might be changing as they realize the failure of this approach, and perhaps evidenced by the positive recent presidential action to allow undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens to access paths to residency. In the meantime, cities like ours can step in and try to replicate this tried-and-true system in some ways, as NYC is attempting to do with its in-progress plan to provide migrants in Buffalo with the runway to set themselves up there.

Perhaps these upstate migrants can be set up in similar programs in Buffalo and elsewhere. Whatever upfront costs this entails will be counteracted entirely by the long-term social and economic benefits of helping asylum seekers reach self-sufficiency faster.

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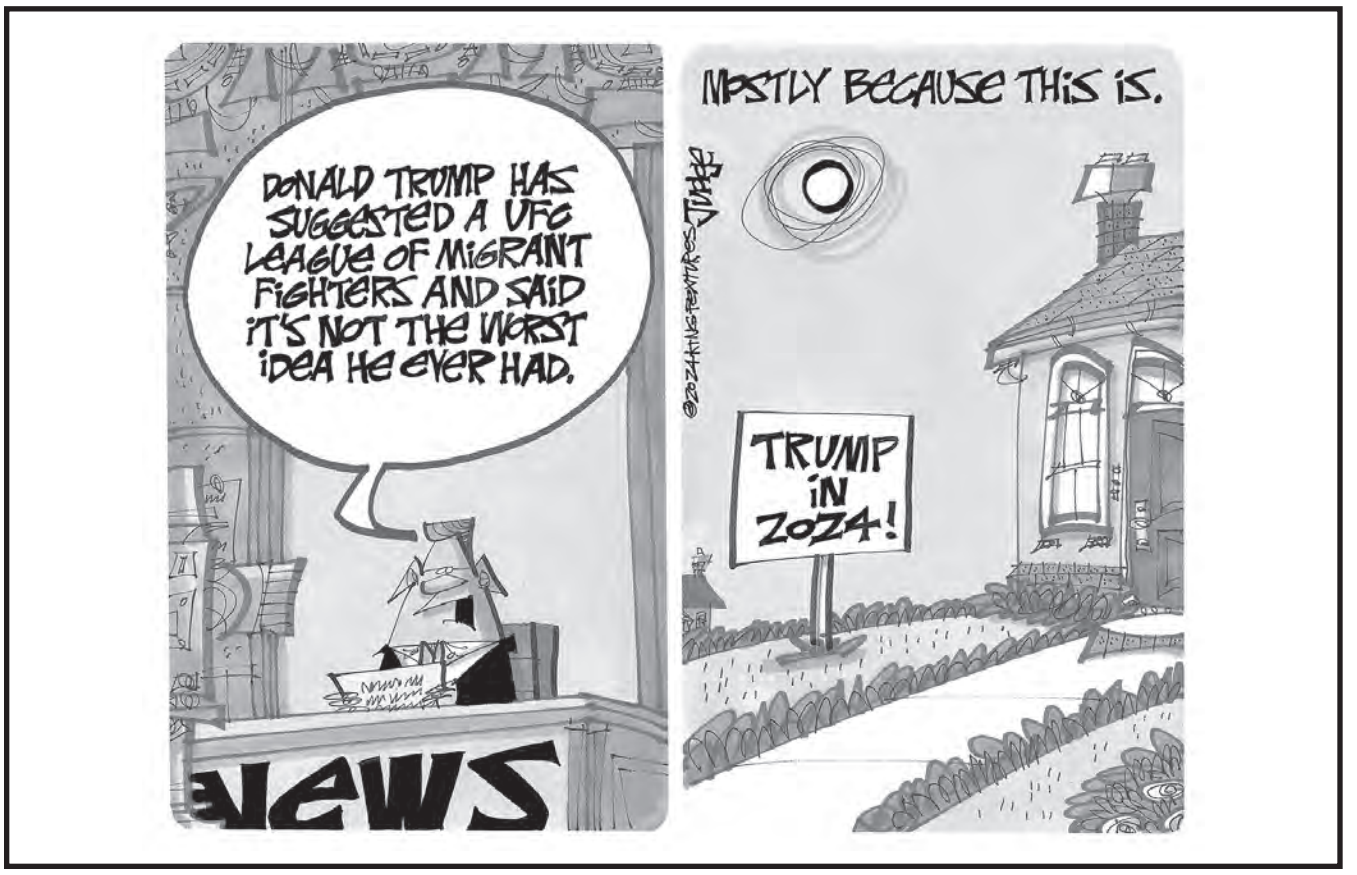

DONALD TRUMP HAS SUGGESTED A UFC LEAGUE OF MIGRANT FIGHTERS AND SAID IT'S NOT THE WORST IDEA HE EVER HAD.
NEWS
MOSTLY BECAUSE THIS IS.
TRUMP IN 2024!

Aesop's fable—Will candidates be judged by the company they keep?

By STEVE CORBIN
The Fulcrum

Steve Corbin is professor emeritus of marketing at the University of Northern Iowa.

One of Aesop's 725 fables was called "The Donkey and His Purchaser." In the renowned Greek storyteller's tale, a man wished to purchase a donkey and decided to give the animal a trial to see how it would fit in with his herd. He took the donkey home and put it in the field with the other donkeys. Quickly the donkey on trial joined the laziest and greediest donkey. Seeing who the new donkey chose to spend time with, the man returned the donkey back to its owner because he knew it would also become lazy and greedy. The moral of the story: A man is known by the company he keeps.

Likewise, a parallel five-word phrase from the Bible speaks volumes: "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

The phrases are all about ethics and morals. If you hang around dishonest people, your association with them reflects a lack of good judgment, moral standards and character. Might an examination of our 2024 presidential candidates' associations assist America's 161.4 million registered voters when they decide how to fill in their ballots on November 5? Your choice for president could also be a direct reflection on your judgment, moral standards and character.

Let's examine Joe Biden's and Donald Trump's respective election associates.

To date, Biden's re-election campaign is based upon seeking advice, guidance and counsel from Julie Chavez Rodriguez (campaign manager), Quentin Fulks (principal deputy campaign manager) and Mike Donilon (chief strategist).

Biden's national campaign co-chairs include Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (Del.), Rep. Jim Clyburn (S.C.), Sen. Chris Coons (Del.), Sen. Tammy Duckworth (Ill.), media proprietor Jeffrey Katzenberg, former Rep. Cedric Richmond (now Democratic National Committee senior advisor) and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Thirteen others assisting in Biden's re-election campaign include Colleen Coffey, Jennifer O'Malley Dillon, Mia Ehrenberg, Grace Landrieu, Charles Lutvak, Alana Mounce, Kevin Munoz, Michael Pratt, Michael Press, Roohi Rustum, Sara Schreiber, Becca Siegel and Michael Tyler.

None of Biden's 23 re-election associates have a criminal record, are under investigation or on trial.

Donald Trump's national staff campaign is composed of two co-campaign managers (Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles), two senior advisors (Brian Jack and Jason Miller), Steven Cheung as communications director and Karoline Leavitt as national press secretary. These individuals have no criminal record.

But other Trump campaign aides, allies, assistants and associates — according to Reuters – have faced criminal prosecution, including Steve Bannon, Elliot Broidy, Michael Flynn, Rick Gates, Paul Manafort, Peter Navarro, Stewart Rhodes (Oath Keepers), Roger Stone and Allen Weisselberg.

Four more people can be added to what MSNBC referred to as "Trump's team of felons": Tom Barrack, Kenneth Chesebro, George Papadopoulos and Sidney Powell. USA Today claims five additional Trump election associates who've had legal trouble of their own: Jeffrey Clark, John Eastman, Jenna Ellis, Rudy Giuliani and Mark Meadows.

The right-wing Wall Street Journal notes that we should not forget Ray Smith III (one of Trump's 18 co-defendants in the criminal conspiracy to alter the outcome of the 2020 Georgia election) plus Walt Nauta and Carlos De Oliveira, who allegedly mishandled—with Trump—federal classified documents at Mar-a-Lago.

And let's not forget Trump acolytes in the House—Andy Biggs (Ariz.), Jim Jordan (Ohio), Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) and Scott Perry (Pa.)—who have violated ethics rules by defying legitimate congressional subpoenas related to their involvement in or knowledge of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol meant to overturn the results of a free and fair election.

The Washington Post reported the number of people in Trump's orbit "who've been convicted of crimes is so great" and a "remarkable universe of criminality." That article was published in 2019. The size of Trump's current universe of criminality is even more daunting.

William J.H. Boetcker (1873-1962), a revered Presbyterian minister, is credited for stating, "A man is judged by the company he keeps and a company is judged by the men it keeps, and the people of Democratic nations are judged by the type and caliber of officers they elect."

What will be the caliber of officers we the people elect on November 5? Will the ethics, morals, judgment and character of the company Biden and Trump respectfully keep be a plausible voting guide? Your good (or poor) judgment, moral standards (or not) and character (or lack thereof) may very well be measured by who you vote for.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Biden bumbles, Trump lies and we all lose

By MARK Z. BARABAK
Los Angeles Times

Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*, focusing on politics in California and the West.*

There were many firsts attending Thursday night's mud wrestle between Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

It was the earliest presidential debate in history. The first between two candidates of such a ripe age. The only one ever pitting the occupant of the Oval Office against the man he ousted.

But for anyone who's paid even passing attention to politics over the last four ill-tempered years, the spite-filled session in Atlanta had the familiar, unhappy feel of a nagging injury.

The bombast. The insults. The obvious, abundant contempt between two men who couldn't even bring themselves to shake hands.

"You have the morals of an alley cat," Biden told the former president.

"We're a seriously failing nation," Trump said of the current president, "and we're failing because of him."

There are train wrecks that offer more inspiration and uplift.

It was Biden, sagging in polls and looking to energize his campaign, who threw out the debate challenge, landing the two rivals on an unusually early summer stage.

It may go down as one of the great political miscalculations of modern times.

Though he rallied in the second half of the program, Biden's performance did nothing to dispel concerns about his fitness at age 81, which poses arguably the greatest threat to his shot at a second term. If anything, the president compounded those doubts.

Biden looked stricken when he didn't appear vacant or lost. At times, he seemed to grip the lectern as though he might topple if he let go. His complexion was waxy. His papery voice trailed into silence or incoherence.

"I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence," Trump said in one gibe. "I don't think he knows what he said either."

Presidents are often rusty in their first debates, losing their fighting edge after four years cossetted in the White House. Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama both stumbled in their initial return to the debate stage.

But neither performed as badly as Biden, whose wan delivery took much of the sting — "I've never heard so much foolishness," "He has no idea what the hell he's talking about" — out of his attacks.

The facts might have been on Biden's side. The U.S. economy, inflation aside, is the envy of the world. He's done more than any president in history to address the crisis posed by climate change. He's rallied an international coalition to push back on Russia's dangerous hegemonic designs.

But those were lost in Biden's curlicue responses and halting verbal shuffle.

Trump, for his part, lied and exaggerated with characteristic abandon.

He blamed former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) for the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol that he brought on. He claimed to have presided over the greatest economic performance in American history. He claimed that millions of people entering the country illegally are not only being enrolled in the Social Security and Medicare programs, but also living in luxury hotels at government expense.

He wrongly claimed Biden engineered his serial criminal indictments and continued pushing wrongful claims undermining the integrity of the 2020 election he lost — the Big Lie that's eroding our democracy.

Fact-checkers immediately went into overdrive, but over the years they've proved no match for Trump's rat-a-tat of falsehoods. Give him his due: He may spew never-ending fabrications, but Trump does so unabashedly and with a powerful certitude.

The overwhelming majority of Americans may be locked into their preferences for November, leaving a relatively scant number open to persuasion. That said, those voters could make the difference if the election is close, as polls have been suggesting.

Perhaps they learned something new Thursday night. (Trump never did explain his claim that Biden is a sleeper agent bought and paid for by the Chinese government. That seemed to come from left field.)

For many, the 90-plus minutes probably reaffirmed what they thought at the start of the session at CNN's Atlanta studio. Biden haters saw an enfeebled geriatric with only fleeting moments of lucidity. (Even some Biden supporters would agree with that assessment.) Trump bashers saw an overbearing, congenitally lying ogre.

Those with little use for either candidate might be wishing even more for a viable alternative not named Robert F. Kennedy Jr., serving up his witch's brew of conspiracy theories, or some other third-party candidate with absolutely no chance of winning.

It will be at least several days before the impact of Thursday night's confrontation is known. Snap polls do little more than register gut reactions. Views can change after voters have time to digest the voluminous content, hear post-debate analyses and watch the snippets highlighted on TV and the viral videos ricocheting across social media.

But after Biden's wretched performance, the nervousness among Democrats is likely to turn into full-fledged panic, with renewed talk of replacing the president ahead of Democrats' August convention.

And given the presidential face-plant, we may have just witnessed the last debate of the 2024 presidential campaign, with Biden strategists finding some excuse to pull out of a scheduled follow-up in September.

Given the display put on Thursday night—"Sucker!" "Loser!"—that cancellation might not be such a bad thing.

After years of running, I quit and took up Pilates. Here's how that turned out

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

About a year and a half ago, it occurred to me that if I didn't start working out again, I'd be sliding into a sloppy, flabby late middle age.

I had always been a runner. For more than 30 years, my workout partner and I ran regularly along the oceanfront, from Venice to Santa Monica. Rain or shine, through pregnancies, child-rearing, PTAs, marital conflict and all the things that Zorba the Greek once described as "the full catastrophe," we talked as we ran, becoming each other's best therapist.

And then, sometime before the COVID-19 pandemic, my partner discovered a hot new form of exercise. Our running life as we knew it was basically over as I effectively became a pickleball widow.

In 2020, when the pandemic forced us inside, I pretty much stopped running.

Around the same time, my left knee began to ache and swell. I was certain it was a result of my rambunctious golden retriever smashing into my legs. But no, said the doctor, it was arthritis. (Me? So young?)

She referred me to physical therapy. The physical therapy office never returned my calls.

Desperate (and chubby), I decided to try Pilates. Why? Because all the women streaming in and out of the nearby Pilates studio had the kind of bodies I dreamed of having. And my knee was killing me.

My first, 45-minute Pilates class was a disaster. I was lost when the instructor called out the various positions—dancing bear, French twist, reverse kneeling crunch. I sat on the Megaformer machine, panting and feeling defeated.

"Why don't you try a few private classes until you get the hang of it?" the studio owner suggested after I complained that she didn't offer classes for rank beginners like me.

Over the course of the next year, I spent enough money on private lessons to buy a used car. In fact, I was spending so much that I was actually relieved when my cherished instructor told me she was moving to Amsterdam.

With trepidation, I began taking group classes again. This time, it was different. I knew what to do (mostly) and could keep up (mostly).

"Booty, booty, booty," my class instructor, DeNae D'Auria, calls out as we, on all fours, donkey kick with a bungee cord over one foot to increase resistance.

"We don't talk about pelvic floor stability enough," says D'Auria, who is trained in Lagree, which expands on the core concepts of Pilates but is more intense.

"Love to see those shaky shakes," she says, our muscles trembling as we do squats, lunges and planks enough to fill a lumber yard. "Remember to slow down and breathe. The secret is time under tension."

I first encountered a Pilates machine almost 25 years ago at the home of the iconic hairdresser Vidal Sassoon, whom I was profiling for The Times. It seemed eccentric, but he looked fantastic for a man of 71.

Pilates classes are dominated by women, but the exercise was used to treat wounded and disabled soldiers soon after it was developed by Joseph Pilates, a German bodybuilder and gymnast who was interned by the British on the Isle of Man during World War I. He improvised the first versions of his famous machines by attaching bed springs to headboards and footboards to create resistance.

He called his system of exercise "Contrology," focusing on breathing, the postural muscles of the back and the abdominal muscles we think of as the "core."

After decades as a "little-known form of exercise with a devout but small following that included dancers, singers, circus performers and actors," Pilates exploded in the mid- to late 1990s, according to the authors of the 2011 book "Pilates Anatomy." Celebrities such as Madonna and Uma Thurman touted its benefits.

"It suddenly started appearing in Hollywood movies and television commercials, in cartoons and comedy shows, and on late-night television," wrote Rael Isacowitz and Karen Clippinger. "It became synonymous with going to Starbucks and indulging in a low-fat triple-shot soy latte (no whipped cream, please!)."

The Pilates Foundation estimates that some 12 million people worldwide practice the exercise regimen. That's a tiny fraction of the estimated 300 million or so who practice yoga.

"Scientific research does support an array of impressive health benefits for Pilates," the New York Times reported in 2022. "Studies suggest it may help to improve muscle endurance and flexibility, reduce chronic pain and lessen anxiety and depression."

Pilates' place in popular culture was solidified in April, when "Saturday Night Live" took it on in a sketch that mocked the love-hate relationship it inspires in practitioners.

"Pilates," says a deep-voiced narrator. "From the creator of 'Saw X' and the marketing director for Alo comes a chilling new look at girl horror."

For people like me who came of age during the insane era of high-impact aerobics—thanks for the sciatica, Jane Fonda!—the low-impact nature of Pilates is appealing.

I usually do four 45-minute classes a week. I wouldn't say I look like those lithe young women who surround me there—most are so young that I could be their mother—but a taut core has developed beneath my midriff bulge.

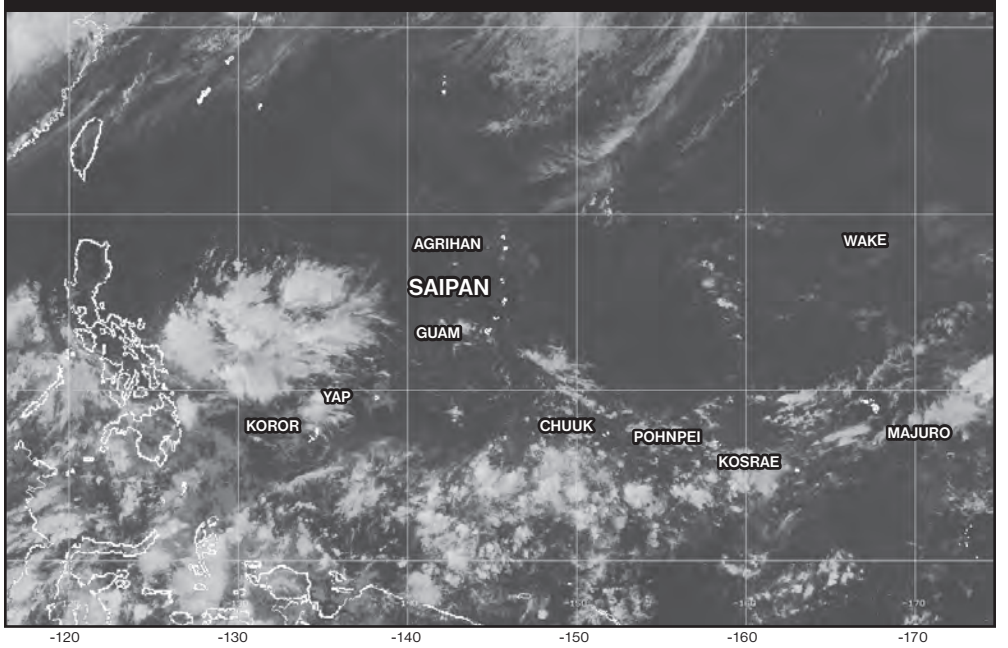
Oh, and that awful knee pain? It's been gone for months.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. A slight chance of thunderstorms through Saturday.	Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. A slight chance of thunderstorms through Saturday.	Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. A slight chance of thunderstorms..
88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:22 AM MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast remains unchanged. A passing disturbance to the south is still expected to bring low-end scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms to Guam and Rota today, and only isolated showers expected at Tinian and Saipan. The Marine and Surf forecasts remain unchanged.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	86° / 78°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 80°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:06 AM	3:21 PM	-
Wednesday	12:40 AM	1:24 PM	-
Thursday	1:22 AM	2:21 PM	-
Friday	2:06 AM	3:21 PM	-
Saturday	2:55 AM	4:22 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	63° / 49°
Beijing	Fair	91° / 72°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 83°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 74°
London	Showers	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 70°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 59°
Busan	Thunderstorm	77° / 68°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorm	91° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	85° / 70°
Tokyo	Showers	84° / 76°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	94° / 79°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:25 AM	High Tide	2.18
11:04 AM	Low Tide	0.04
6:17 PM	High Tide	1.85
10:51 PM	Low Tide	1.45

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

How delicate talks led to the unlikely end of Julian Assange's 12-year saga

WASHINGTON (AP)— About a year and a half ago, a lawyer for Julian Assange presented federal prosecutors in Virginia with a longshot request: Dismiss the case against the WikiLeaks founder.

It was a bold ask given that Assange had published hundreds of thousands of secret documents and was arguably the highest-profile detainee in the world facing a U.S. government extradition request. By that point, the Justice Department had been engaged in a protracted fight in British courts to send him to the United States for trial.

Yet from that request, recounted by a person familiar with the matter, were the seeds that led to Wednesday's unthinkable moment: Assange stepping out of a U.S. courthouse on a remote Western Pacific island, beginning his journey home after being holed up in self-exile and prison for a dozen years.

"How does it feel to be a free man, Mr. Assange?" someone shouted.

He smiled and nodded and kept walking. There was another flight to catch to take him home to Australia.

The plea deal unfolded against the backdrop of a plodding extradition process that produced no guarantee the self-styled free speech advocate would ever be transferred for prosecution and a recognition by U.S. officials of the more than five years he'd already served in a British prison. By the end, a series of proposals and counterproposals were made to resolve points of division: the Justice Department's desire for a felony guilty plea and Assange's refusal to step foot in the continental U.S., where he envisioned any number of potential cataclysmic scenarios for himself.

The agreement also included safety valves that would ensure Assange's liberty in Australia in the unlikely event a judge rejected it at the last minute.

This report is based on interviews with people familiar with the negotiations and overall case who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the process, as well as a review of court records.

Assange's release in the unlikely location of Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, concluded a polarizing legal saga that spanned three presidential administrations and multiple continents.

It would have been unthinkable five years ago.

That's when the Justice Department unsealed charges as British authorities hauled a bearded and shouting Assange from the Ecuadorian Embassy where he'd been holed up for the prior seven years. Assange took refuge in 2012 after being released on bail while facing extradition to Sweden in a sexual assault investigation that was later dropped.

AP

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange gestures after landing at RAAF air base Fairbairn in Canberra, Australia, June 26 2024.

He remained there, fearing arrest and extradition to the U.S. in connection with the receipt and publication by WikiLeaks of hundreds of thousands of war logs and diplomatic cables that American prosecutors say he conspired with Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to illegally obtain.

At the time of his indictment, Assange was perhaps better known for WikiLeaks' involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential contest when the secret-spilling website released tranches of damaging emails about Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton that were stolen by Russian military intelligence officers in what officials said was brazen election interference by Moscow.

The releases prompted Trump to memorably proclaim during the campaign: "WikiLeaks, I love WikiLeaks."

The view was different inside the Justice Department that Trump would soon lead. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in 2017 called the arrest of Assange a priority amid a crackdown on leaks of classified information.

The crime at issue wasn't the hack-and-dump election interference but the diplomatic cables from years earlier. The Obama administration had had extensive debate about charging Assange but did not pursue an indictment under the Espionage Act — which criminalizes the mishandling of national defense information—in part over concerns it could be viewed as an attack on journalism.

But the Justice Department in the Trump administration took a different tack. The existence of a criminal case was inadvertently revealed by a filing error in 2018. The first narrowly tailored charge to be unsealed months later was a computer intrusion count that accused him of conspiring with Manning to crack a password that gave her higher-level access to classified computer networks.

Within weeks, the department disclosed 17 other counts that accused him of violating the Espionage Act by obtaining and disseminating the secret records.

Prosecutors say he crossed the line by soliciting the hacking of computer networks for classified information and by indiscriminately publishing secrets, including the unredacted names of sources who provided information to U.S. military forces. Assange's supporters have for years maintained that he provided an invaluable public service by exposing military misconduct in America's foreign wars, much the same way journalists are tasked with doing.

The case wasn't easy legally. It also had logistical complications.

With Assange jailed in London's Belmarsh prison, the Justice Department tried, fitfully, to secure his extradition—a multi-step process involving judges who, along with Assange, sought assurances that he could attempt to defend himself by invoking the First Amendment protections enjoyed in America.

With the prospects for Assange's transfer in the balance, his team saw the presence of a more press-friendly attorney general, Merrick Garland, as a potential opening to try for a resolution in the case.

About a year and a half ago, in the first substantive communications between the two sides, an Assange lawyer made a presentation to Justice Department prosecutors in Virginia seeking the indictment's dismissal. The prosecutors listened, and though the idea was unworkable, returned months later with a counteroffer: Would Assange consider a guilty plea?

The Assange team responded that it was open to exploring that possibility but had two lines in the sand about what a resolution would need to entail. He would not accept any additional prison time, nor set foot on U.S. soil given the anxieties shared by him and his supporters about what the American government might do to him.

Assange's lawyers broached the idea of a misdemeanor plea, which under federal court rules could be entered remotely without Assange having to travel to America.

When that idea couldn't cross the finish line, the two sides discussed the possibility of WikiLeaks as an organization pleading guilty to a felony and Assange to a misdemeanor, said one of the people, describing an overall effort by both sides "to get to yes."

The negotiations were largely held with prosecutors in the Eastern District of Virginia, where the case was charged, but then in the final months with Justice Department national security officials.

Department officials who wanted an Assange felony plea ultimately signaled respect for his core demands by floating a concept in which he could enter the deal outside the 50 states, avoid additional prison and be released from custody in Britain, the person said.

That "concept then led to several weeks of serious back-and-forth," said the person. There were a limited number of locations that fit that criteria — Guam is one — but Saipan was selected.

"The Justice Department reaches a resolution in plea matters when the Justice Department believes it can reach a resolution that serves the best interests of the United States. That's what we've done here," Garland said at an unrelated news conference Thursday when asked why the department resolved the case.

From the Justice Department's perspective, the more than five years he spent in a high-security British prison was in line, or potentially even greater, than a sentence he might have received in the U.S.

All the while, the extradition process was strained and slow-moving.

In March, a British court ruled that Assange could not be extradited unless U.S. authorities guaranteed he wouldn't get the death penalty and could use the same free-speech defense as a U.S. citizen would.

The U.S. provided those assurances. But Assange's lawyers accepted only that he wouldn't face capital punishment and said the assurance that Assange could "raise and seek to rely upon" the First Amendment fell short of the protections he deserved. Last month, a court held that he could appeal his extradition order after judges said the U.S. had given "blatantly inadequate" assurances.

Importantly, built into the plea deal was a set of contingencies in the event the judge did not approve it. That included a condition permitting Assange to withdraw from the deal and return home to Australia as the two sides had a limited window to try to negotiate a new result to achieve the same outcome. And if the judge insisted on detaining him, the Justice Department agreed to dismiss the Saipan charge.

Behind the scenes, Australian officials were agitating for his release, with the government asking the Justice Department in an April letter to consider a plea deal to end the case, one person familiar with the matter said. President Joe Biden told reporters that month that his administration was "considering" dropping the case. A White House official this week said the White House had nothing to do with the plea agreement.

The deal with the U.S. was reached on June 19, according to London's High Court, one of many behind-the-scenes actions that led to Assange's freedom.

That same day, his wife, Stella Assange, stood in front of a camera outside Belmarsh prison and recorded a video in which said she expected her husband to soon be at the end of his ordeal.

"This period of our lives, I'm confident now, has come to an end," she said.

The video was not released until almost a week later when Assange was in the air on his way to Saipan and after word of the plea deal had gotten out.

"If you're seeing this, it means he is out," WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson said in the same video.

On Wednesday morning, Saipan—a rural Pacific island, the theater of a World War II battle between the U.S. and Japan and, more recently, a scuba diving destination with lush golf courses—became the unlikely site of a history-making coda to a sensational case.

After a marathon flight from London to Bangkok to the final destination, Assange arrived Wednesday morning at the island's grand federal courthouse. Opened four years ago, it boasts towering pillars and impressive seaside views.

The white-haired Assange strode into the courthouse wearing a dark suit with a gold-colored tie loosened at the neck. Inside the courtroom, he appeared relaxed, donning glasses as he perused documents and cracking an occasional joke. When the judge asked if he was satisfied with the plea conditions, he replied, "It might depend on the outcome," sparking laughter in the courtroom.

After the plea, the judge pronounced him a "free man" and Assange headed home to Australia where he was reunited with his wife and father, John Shipton, who earlier in the week told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that "doing cartwheels is a good expression of the joy that one feels."

He said his son would now be able "to walk up and down the beach and feel the sand through his toes in winter, that lovely chill, and be able to learn how to be patient and play with your children for a couple of hours. All of the great beauty of ordinary life."

Assange's future in Australia remains uncertain. He avoided the media at a news conference Thursday where his wife suggested he was looking forward to smaller pleasures.

"Julian plans to swim in the ocean every day," she said. "He plans to sleep in a real bed. He plans to taste real food, and he plans to enjoy his freedom."

Business

Community First renews its sponsorship for Iijima Martin

» Credit union's Acts of Community program and new campaign focuses on supporting success stories

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Community First Guam Federal Credit Union announced that it has renewed its sponsorship of Guam professional triathlete, Manami Iijima Martin, as part of the Community First Acts of Community Program, a community outreach and support program to benefit local nonprofit organizations, athletes, and affordable housing initiatives, to name a few.

Community First has been a proud sponsor of Iijima Martin, a Community First Member and standout athlete, since October 2021.

Gerard Cruz, president and CEO of Community First said, "Manami approached us to help support her goal of training and competing full-time to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. We saw her determination and wanted to help her reach her dreams of making it to the Olympics. It was an easy yes for us, and we are so proud of what she has accomplished on the world stage. We can't wait to cheer her on when she represents Guam at the Olympics this July."

Iijima Martin notes that with Community First's sponsorship support, she was able to focus on training and competing at different international competitions that would earn her qualifying points for the Olympic games.

She said, "I'm so grateful for my community who have supported my journey. Community First's support helped to take financial worries off my shoulders so I could focus full-time on my training. I couldn't have done this without them. This sponsorship has allowed me to train and compete full-time to represent Guam around the world."

When asked about the upcoming Olympic games, Iijima Martin recollects the years of training that went into reaching her goal. She added, "This moment reminds me about all the hard work that went into improving as an athlete, training consistently, and traveling to competitions around the world that helped me qualify for the Olympics. I am very proud to represent Guam at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. It's a dream to show the world what a Guam athlete can accomplish."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union announces its renewed sponsorship of Guam professional triathlete, Manami Iijima Martin, as part of the Community First Acts of Community Program. Iijima Martin will be representing Guam in the 2024 Summer Olympics, Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, in Paris, France from July 26 to August 11. Iijima Martin is also featured in Community First's new Success Stories campaign. Pictured from left are Iijima Martin and Gerard Cruz, president and CEO of Community First.

Iijima Martin will also kick off Community First's new Success Stories campaign, which launched on June 27. The campaign features the pro athlete training—swimming, biking, and running—around the island. The campaign highlights the value of community support in reaching one's goals, something the credit union and Iijima Martin know much about.

Iijima Martin added, "I want to thank Community First and the people of Guam for their support because without them, I wouldn't be able to successfully compete in triathlons. I will represent our island with great pride this summer at the Olympic Games. The new campaign sums up what I've been doing for the past three years to get here."

Cruz added, "Community First invites our island community to join us in supporting Manami and fellow Guam athletes as they realize their success stories this summer and beyond."

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union is a community-chartered, full-service financial institution serving the community of Guam since 1962. The credit union has four Member Service Centers: the new 15,000-square-foot Hagåtña Headquarters and Member Service Center, Tamuning, Dededo, and Guam's first Student-Run Service Center in Mangilao. The credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Engage with Community First online at cfirstguam.com or on Facebook and Instagram (@cfirstguam). ***(PR)***

US wants Boeing to plead guilty to fraud over fatal crashes, lawyers say

The U.S. Justice Department is pushing Boeing to plead guilty to criminal fraud in connection with two deadly plane crashes involving its 737 Max jetliners, according to several people who heard federal prosecutors detail a proposed offer Sunday.

Boeing will have until the end of the coming week to accept or reject the offer, which includes the giant aerospace company agreeing to an independent monitor who would oversee its compliance with anti-fraud laws, they said.

The case stems from the department's determination that Boeing violated an agreement that was intended to resolve a 2021 charge of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government. Prosecutors alleged at the time that Boeing misled regulators who approved the 737 Max and set pilot-training requirements to fly the plane. The company blamed two relatively low-level employees for the fraud.

The Justice Department told relatives of some of the 346 people who died in the 2018 and 2019 crashes about the plea offer during a video meeting. The family members, who want Boeing to face a criminal trial and to pay a $24.8 billion fine, reacted angrily. ***(AP)***

Nation

Biden's family tells him to stay in race, keep fighting

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's family used a Sunday gathering at Camp David to urge him to stay in the race and keep fighting despite his dreadful debate performance, and some members criticized how his staff prepared him for the faceoff, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Biden spent the day sequestered with first lady Jill Biden, his children and grandchildren. It was a previously scheduled trip to the presidential retreat in Maryland for a photo shoot with Annie Leibovitz for the upcoming Democratic National Convention.

But the gathering was also an exercise in trying to figure out how to quell Democratic anxiety that has exploded following Thursday's performance.

While his family was aware of how poorly he performed against Donald Trump, they also continue to think he's the best person to beat the Republican presumptive nominee. They also believe he is capable of doing the job of president for another four years, according to the people who were not authorized to speak publicly about internal discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Among the most vocal: Jill Biden and son Hunter, whom the president has long gone to for counsel and advice. Both believe the president shouldn't bow out when he's down, and believe that he can come back from what they see as one subpar performance. The family questioned how he was prepared for the debate by staff and wondered if they could have done something better, the people said.

Biden's campaign has spent the days since the debate—where he appeared raspy, trailed off, and at times gave convoluted answers—working to keep donors and surrogates on board as Democrats increasingly questioned whether he should stay in the race.

At this point in the delegate process, Biden would likely have to decide to drop out for there to be a new nominee. And the people he listens to most in the world—his wife and son—are telling him to stay in.

Even before the debate, the age of the 81-year-old Democratic president had been a liability with voters, and the prime-time faceoff appeared to reinforce the public's deep-seated concerns before perhaps the largest audience he will have in the four months until Election Day. CNN said more than 51 million people watched the debate.

While the president was huddled with his family, prominent Democrats rallied to deliver a public show of support for his campaign on Sunday.

"I do not believe that Joe Biden has a problem leading for the next four years," said one close ally, Democratic Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina. "Joe Biden should continue to run on his record."

Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Georgia Democrat and Baptist minister, said there had been "more than a few Sundays when I wish I had preached a better sermon," relating the experience to Biden's debate performance.

"But after the sermon was over, it was my job to embody the message, to show up for the people that I serve. And that's what Joe Biden has been doing his entire life," Warnock said. It was an echo of the message from other supporters that Biden had a bad debate, but a lifetime of good governance.

Warnock, like Clyburn and others, pivoted to Trump's many falsehoods during the debate—lapses that Biden and the debate moderators often failed to fact check from the stage—including about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by Trump supporters, immigration and the outcome of the 2020 election.

Trump ally Bannon to report to federal prison to serve 4-month sentence on contempt charges

WASHINGTON (AP)—Longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon is scheduled to report to a federal prison in Connecticut on Monday to serve a four-month sentence on contempt charges for defying a subpoena in the congressional investigation into the U.S. Capitol attack.

A judge had allowed Bannon to stay free for nearly two years while he appealed, but ordered him to report to prison Monday after an appeals court panel upheld his contempt of Congress convictions.

The Supreme Court rejected his last-minute appeal to stave off his sentence.

A jury found Bannon guilty of two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition with the Jan. 6 House Committee and a second for refusing to provide documents related to his involvement in the Republican ex-president's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Defense attorneys have argued the case raises issues that should be examined by the Supreme Court, including Bannon's previous lawyer's belief that the subpoena was invalid because former President Donald Trump had asserted executive privilege. Prosecutors, though, say Bannon had left the White House years before and Trump had never invoked executive privilege in front of the committee.

Bannon's appeal will continue to play out, and Republican House leaders have put their support behind stepping in to assert the Jan. 6 committee was improperly created, effectively trying to deem the subpoena Bannon received as illegitimate.

Another Trump aide, trade adviser Peter Navarro, has also been convicted of contempt of Congress. He reported to prison in March to serve his four-month sentence after the Supreme Court refused his bid to delay the sentence.

Bannon is also facing criminal charges in New York state court alleging he duped donors who gave money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Bannon has pleaded not guilty to money laundering, conspiracy, fraud and other charges, and that trial has been postponed until at least the end of September.

Life & Style

'A Quiet Place' prequel box office speaks volumes as Costner's Western gets a bumpy start

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

"A Quiet Place: Day One" is making noise at the box office. The prequel earned an estimated $53 million in its first weekend in North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It's both a franchise best and significantly more than expected. Going into the weekend, prerelease tracking had "Day One" pegged for a $40 million debut, but audiences were clearly more enthusiastic to see the action-horror starring Lupita Nyong'o and Joseph Quinn and released by Paramount. The same could not be said for Kevin Costner's "Horizon: An American Saga—Chapter 1," which opened to $11 million.

AP

This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Lupita Nyong'o in a scene from "A Quiet Place: Day One."

The "Quiet Place" victory wasn't quite enough to snag the coveted first place spot on the charts, though. That honor again went to Disney and Pixar's juggernaut "Inside Out 2," which added an estimated $57.4 million in its third weekend in theaters, and crossed $1 billion globally.

There's a distant possibility that the places will shift when actuals are released Monday. But either way it's good news for movie theaters in a summer season that's finally heating up but still running far behind last year (down 19%) and pre-pandemic norms (down 36% from 2019).

"Inside Out 2" continues to be a box office phenomenon, the likes of which the industry hasn't seen since "Barbie" almost a year ago. In just three weeks of release, it's earned nearly $470 million in North America and $545.5 million internationally, bringing its global total to $1.01 billion. The sequel is the only 2024 release to cross the billion-dollar mark and it did it in just 19 days, a record for an animated film.

"The film's stunning global success once again illustrates that audiences the world over will respond to compelling, entertaining movies, and that they want to enjoy them on the big screen," said Michael O'Leary, president and CEO of the National Association of Theatre Owners, in a statement.

"A Quiet Place: Day One," directed by Michael Sarnoski and rated PG-13, is also fast approaching an important threshold out of the gates. Including the $45.5 million from international showings in 59 markets, the $67 million production has already made $98.5 million.

"There's a lot of love for the 'A Quiet Place' franchise," said Chris Aronson, the head of domestic distribution for Paramount. "We listened to the fans who wanted to expand the universe."

In a rare feat for a third film, it opened higher than both "A Quiet Place" ($50.2 million opening in April 2018) and " A Quiet Place: Part II " ($47.5 million opening in May 2021). John Krasinski, who wrote and directed the first two, continued serving as a producer.

"It's one of those rare horror franchises that has generated incredible goodwill with audiences and critics alike," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

Playing on 3,708 screens in the U.S. and Canada, nearly 40% of its domestic earnings came from "premium screens" including IMAX and other large formats. It entered the marketplace with mostly positive reviews (84% on Rotten Tomatoes); Audiences gave it a B+ CinemaScore and four out of five stars on PostTrak.

Will Smith performs new song, 'You Can Make It' at 2024 BET Awards

Will Smith stood in a circle of fire—joined by Fridayy and the gospel choir Sunday Service—to make the live debut of his latest single, "You Can Make It," at the 2024 BET Awards.

"I don't know who needs this right now," Smith opened his set. "But I am here to tell you, you can make it."

Mid-way through, Kirk Franklin joined, and then two rapped together. "Nobody gets an easy ride," Smith, who is in the midst of his comeback from slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars two years ago, told the room. "There is wisdom in that fire. Dance in your darkest moments."

The forthcoming presidential election was a huge topic of conversation at Sunday's show. After Childish Gambino presented Killer Mike with the album of the year award for "Michael," the rapper used his acceptance speech to address his Grammys arrest and voting.

"Technically, I was not supposed to be here. I was put in handcuffs, and I was marched out of this building. But I want to tell you, look at God. 'Cause I'm back, baby. I'm back and I'm winning," he said in his speech. Killer Mike was arrested at the Grammys earlier this year over a physical altercation he said was caused by an "over-zealous" security guard; he was not charged over the incident.

"They going to tell you who we vote for is important," he continued his speech, "And it is who we vote for on the big stage. It's important, but it's more important you know who your city council person is, who your prosecutor is."

AP

Will Smith performs during the BET Awards on Sunday, June 30, 2024, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

Megan Thee Stallion opened the show by emerging from an egg—a metaphor for her a new musical rebirth—before diving into with an energetic medley of her new singles "Hiss" and "Boa."

"BET, Where my girls at?" she said, shouting out Victoria Monét and Coco Jones in the crowd before launching into "Where Them Girls At"—a track that's been an immediate fan favorite since Friday's release of her third studio album, "Megan."

The show, airing live from the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, is being hosted by Oscar-nominated actor Taraji P. Henson for a third time. Her opening monologue was a performance, Henson rapping "It's about us," in a loose parody of Kendrick Lamar's "Not Like Us." The diss track became Lamar's fourth No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 this year—and was released in the midst of his recently reignited, once-dormant feud with Drake.

"No beef in here tonight," she joked, "Can we say plant-based?"

The first award of the night, best international act, was presented by actor Colman Domingo. It was given to Tyla, the Johannesburg, South African amapiano superstar.

"This is very heavy, guys," she joked about the weight of the award. "Thank you to BET for always pushing the culture."

Later in the night, she'd take home the award for best new artist. "This is crazy," she said. "I just want to dedicate this one to Africa. I want to dedicate this one to all the African superstars before me that didn't get these opportunities that I'm getting." ***(AP)***

Man's fondness for porn is a turnoff for partner

DEAR ABBY: I met this man online a year and a half ago. We have been together ever since. There is a serious problem with him watching porn. When we met, I knew he was doing it when I was not with him. He knows I'm not happy about it, and he tried for a while to keep it hidden from me. More recently, he would watch it and then want to come get cozy with me.

When I tell him it's a complete turnoff for me, he gets upset and tells me I need to see a therapist to get over it. I told him he should get help if he expects to have a relationship with any woman. I think he's obsessed with pornography. Am I overreacting?

I'm beginning to feel like it is more important for him to watch porn than spend time with me. I do love him and very much want to be with him, but I can't seem to get over this. Help, please.

DEAL-BREAKER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DEAL-BREAKER: I wish you had mentioned what KIND of porn your boyfriend watches. Many men (and women) watch it because it helps them to become aroused. Some couples watch it together. Your boyfriend's suggestion that this should be discussed with a therapist was actually a good one. However, I'm suggesting that the two of you visit the therapist together. If you do, it may be educational and save your relationship.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were invited via a group text to a cocktail party, and we accepted. This host provides a name tag for guests, as it is a mix of friends. When guests arrive, it is expected that they find their magnetic name tag and put it on.

When we arrived, we discovered there was no name tag for us on the magnetic board, nor did our names appear on the guest list next to the board. Should we have left the party or stayed? We decided to stay since we had already said our "hellos" and presented the host with a bottle of premium vodka, but it was awkward, and we felt like party crashers.

We were eventually given name tags, but I was asked by the host, "Did you get your name tag from the board when you first got here or was it not there?" (If we hadn't stopped by the board to get our tag, the error would have been ours.) I told him we had checked but our name tags were not there. I'm sure he already knew that.

The next day, I sent a "thank you" note and expressed our apologies "for the surprise appearance," but we still wonder if we should have left after we discovered we were not on the guest list.

PARTY CRASHER

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR PARTY CRASHER: When you told the host that you had received the mass email invitation, but when you checked the board there was no tag for you nor was your name on the list, you should have shown him your phone as proof you had been invited. That you were made to feel you might not be welcome was, in my opinion, extremely rude.

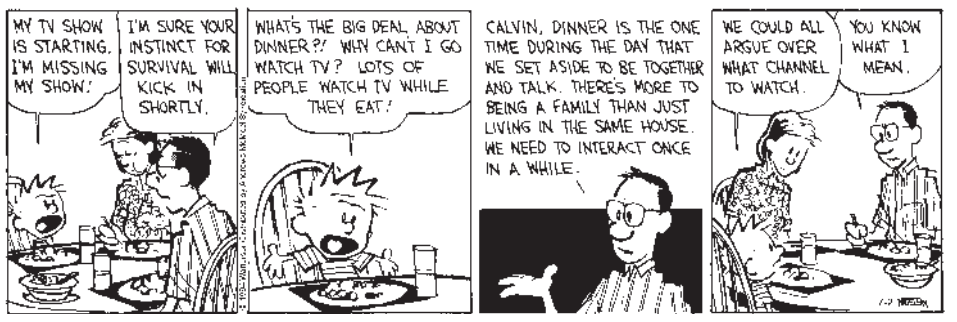
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

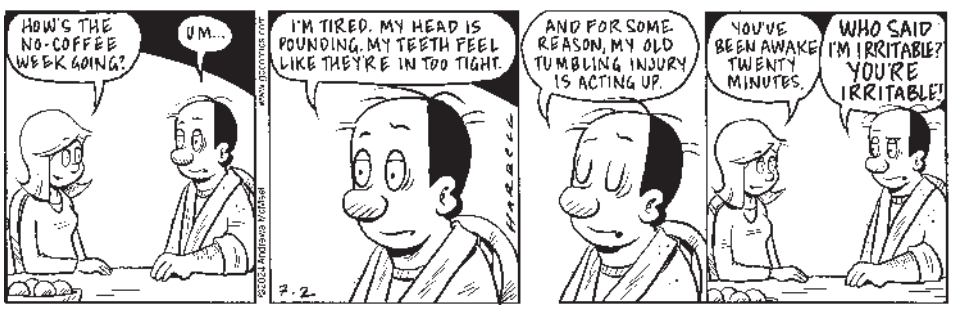

MY TV SHOW IS STARTING. I'M MISSING MY SHOW!
I'M SURE YOUR INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL WILL KICK IN SHORTLY.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DINNER?! WHY CAN'T I GO WATCH TV? LOTS OF PEOPLE WATCH TV WHILE THEY EAT!
CALVIN, DINNER IS THE ONE TIME DURING THE DAY THAT WE SET ASIDE TO BE TOGETHER AND TALK. THERE'S MORE TO BEING A FAMILY THAN JUST LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE. WE NEED TO INTERACT ONCE IN A WHILE.
WE COULD ALL ARGUE OVER WHAT CHANNEL TO WATCH.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'S THE NO-COFFEE WEEK GOING?
UM...
I'M TIRED. MY HEAD IS POUNDING. MY TEETH FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN TOO TIGHT.
AND FOR SOME REASON, MY OLD TUMBLING INJURY IS ACTING UP.
YOU'VE BEEN AWAKE TWENTY MINUTES.
WHO SAID I'M IRRITABLE? YOU'RE IRRITABLE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WISH CONGRESS WOULD GET ITS ACT TOGETHER AND QUIT SPENDING MONEY IT DOESN'T HAVE.
HOW'S YOUR BAR TAB?
I'LL BE GOOD IF I CAN SELL MY KIDNEY ON EBAY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hoosegow
5 Remote batteries, often
8 Mardi Gras wear
12 Competent
13 Roman 1051
14 — Bator
15 Jewelry container, often
17 Aswan's river
18 Depot (Abbr.)
19 Stan of Marvel Comics
20 Marble type
21 Sea, to Gigi
22 Bro, maybe
23 Bumpkin
26 Backyard cooking area
30 Norwegian saint
31 Soap unit
32 Rhine feeder
33 SUV's kin
35 Paid (up)
36 Chow down
37 7, on older phones
38 "Morning Joe" network
41 Large snake
42 Sault — Marie
45 Baseball's Moises
46 Spa treatments
48 Hairdo
49 Singer DiFranco
50 Sob
51 Feudal laborer
52 Rap sheet letters
53 McGregor of film

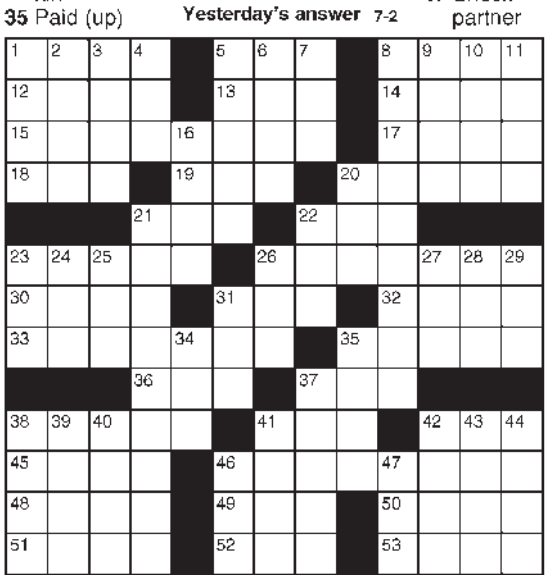
DOWN

1 Toast toppings
2 Border on
3 "Casablanca" role
4 Maui memento
5 Fossil resin
6 Medicinal plant
7 Half a dozen
8 Legumes in an Asian recipe
9 Inter —
10 Pretzel seasoning
11 Leg joint
16 Jazz singer Laine
20 Televise
21 Film fan
22 Knight's address
23 — Kippur
24 Boxing legend
25 Solo in space
26 Summer cooler
27 Touch lightly
28 Fury
29 — Talks (lecture series)
31 Ball club?
34 Rug cleaner, briefly
35 Basra resident
37 Talking points?
38 Apple computers
39 — gin fizz
40 Dark film genre
41 Nonsense
42 Hearty dish
43 Mother of Helios
44 "NFL Live" channel
46 Goat's cry
47 Shock partner

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	C	I			W	L	S		M	A	H	V
G	U	A	M		I	I	A		A	V	O	W
A	S	I	I		G	A	S		J	I	B	S
S	P	F	N	T		S	H	C	O			
			O	R	B		A	B	R	A	D	E
S	C	A	R	A	B	S		I	C	I	F	R
H	O	A	R		C	A	D		O	D	E	R
A	C	R	F	S		C	A	T	N	A	P	S
M	O	P	P	E	D		P	E	C			
			A	C	F	S		T	F	P	I	D
S	I	R	I		A	U	F		R	F	B	A
T	S	A	R		T	B	A		N	F	F	D
Y	A	M	S		H	S	T		I	T	S	

Yesterday's answer 7-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Margot Robbie, 34; Alex Morgan, 35; Ashley Tisdale, 39; Larry David, 77.

Happy Birthday: Communication will be the key to getting what you want. Direct your questions and discussions to those in a position to help you excel. Be the one to follow through and get things done, and everything else will fall into place. Strike while the iron's hot and get the highest return. Let your intuition guide you; magic will unfold. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 26, 35, 42, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll be overwhelmed by what others do or say. Take time to examine your options before you retaliate. Protect your heart, possessions and cash. Don't share secrets or intentions. Strategically handle money, peers and negotiations. Distance yourself from gossipers. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll click with people who share your belief or objective. Use the connections you make to expand your knowledge and insight into furthering your interests. Put your skills to good use and market yourself with finesse. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep your thoughts to yourself until you clearly understand what you want to do and how to exercise your plans. Keep your ideas private, or someone will take over and steal your thunder. Concentrate on exploring the possibilities. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let an opportunity elude you. Reach out and grab what's yours. Take advantage of whatever comes your way and use your intelligence to turn your dream into a reality. It's up to you to make things happen. Embrace life, love and happiness. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Expect someone to use manipulation or false information to gain your approval or get you to sign up for something. Don't let your ego get in the way of common sense. If something sounds too good to be true, walk away. Look out for your best interests. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Research, set your sights on what you want to achieve and initiate the necessary changes to suit your needs. It's time to act, pay attention to detail and confidently proceed. Trust your instincts and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Review your options, consider what's necessary and focus on what you want to achieve. Use your imagination, and you'll outshine any competition you encounter. Let your charm lead the way, and abundance will follow. Revamp your eating habits and improve your quality of life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Focus on fitness, style and socializing. Pay attention to detail and get involved in activities that spark your imagination and bring you in contact with people who share your concerns and interests. Personal change and looking your best are in the stars. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Share what benefits you. Opportunities are apparent if you are willing to take the road less traveled. A partnership can bring changes that help improve your lifestyle and personal decisions. Invest time and money in adding to your skills. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take care of domestic issues quickly. Adjust your schedule to meet demands, and select unique options that encourage better relationships. Add activities to your routine that promote a healthy attitude and physical well-being. Make romance and personal appearance your priorities. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't make premature alterations. Sit with what's happening around you, assess the situation and make a move when you see it's financially, physically and emotionally fit. If you take on too much all at once, you'll fall short of your expectations. Take the road less traveled. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Simplify your life and walk away from situations that are too demanding. Don't participate in gossip or share your data or secrets. Focus on self-improvement, better health and looking your best. Network, and you'll gain clarity regarding what you want to do next. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are gentle, loving and kind. You are unique and imaginative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3			2	4	6
1		6	4				7	
	8	4	7	6		9		
		9		4			5	
	7	5	1	3	9			2
			6				9	
3								
7			5	1		3	2	9
	4	1	8	2	3	5		7

Difficulty: ★★ 7/2

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	8	4	7	5	3	9	6	1
9	5	3	6	1	2	4	8	7
1	7	6	4	9	8	3	2	5
4	2	8	5	3	6	7	1	9
7	6	1	2	4	9	5	3	8
5	3	9	8	7	1	2	4	6
3	1	2	9	8	7	6	5	4
6	9	5	1	2	4	8	7	3
8	4	7	3	6	5	1	9	2

Difficulty: ★ 7/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FAVA BEANS **Solution: 7 letters**

F	L	A	T	B	R	E	A	D	E	T	S	A	O	R
I	A	D	E	I	R	D	E	L	I	C	A	T	E	E
L	P	L	L	A	M	S	A	L	T	E	D	C	A	M
L	P	L	A	E	T	A	M	I	L	C	I	T	R	M
I	E	E	P	F	L	L	I	O	B	P	S	B	T	U
N	T	H	U	L	E	B	O	L	E	A	Ⓚ	U	H	S
G	I	S	R	H	A	L	A	C	P	C	Ⓐ	T	Y	P
S	Z	D	E	A	P	N	K	T	A	R	Ⓞ	T	E	H
T	E	E	E	E	C	C	T	N	E	L	Ⓢ	E	C	S
E	R	E	A	H	U	T	S	V	G	G	L	R	U	I
M	A	S	E	L	N	G	R	E	E	N	E	Y	D	D
R	W	S	D	I	R	E	D	N	E	T	I	V	O	E
U	N	O	M	E	L	E	G	U	M	E	T	R	R	D
O	O	L	I	V	E	O	I	L	O	T	S	E	P	I
G	R	O	C	E	R	Y	L	A	N	O	S	A	E	S

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Appetizer, Blanch, Boil, Buttery, Climate, Delicate, Dried, Earthy, Falafel, Fillings, Flatbread, Good Luck, Gourmet, Green, Grocery, Legume, Lemon, Local, Mint, Olive Oil, Pasta, Peas, Peel, Pesto, Plant, Produce, Purée, Raw, Recipe, Roasted, Salted, Seasonal, Seeds, Shell, Side Dish, Small, Snack, Soak, Spring, Summer, Tender, Vegetable

Yesterday's Answer: Services

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Rangers beat Orioles, Langford hits for first cycle of season

BALTIMORE (AP)—Texas rookie Wyatt Langford became the first major leaguer to hit for the cycle this season, and the Rangers routed the Baltimore Orioles 11-2 on Sunday night to snap a six-game skid.

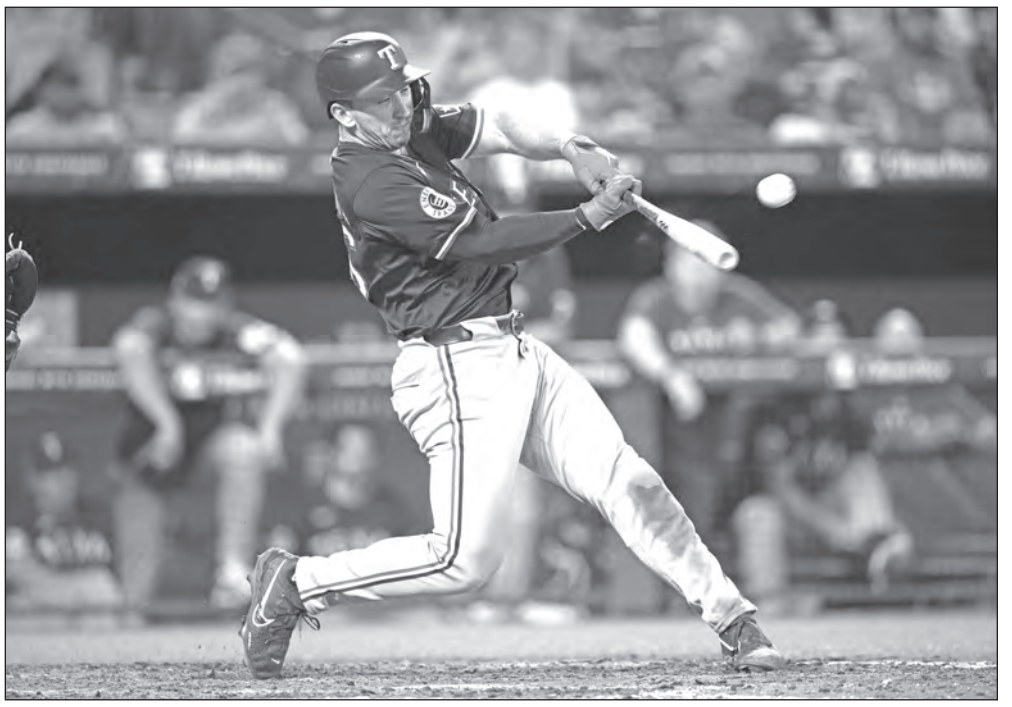
Derek Hill homered twice and Andrew Heaney (3-9) struck out 10 in seven innings for the Rangers, who had dropped the first three games of the series to fall nine games under .500. The defending World Series champions never trailed Sunday, scoring multiple runs in the second, fourth, fifth and eighth innings.

Langford tripled in the fourth, doubled in the fifth and singled in the sixth. Then the 22-year-old outfielder hit a drive down the left-field line in the eighth for a three-run homer to make it 11-2.

It was the first career four-hit game for Langford, who was drafted last year by the Rangers with the No. 4 overall pick and made a swift rise to the majors to make Texas' opening-day roster this season.

Cole Irvin (6-5) allowed five runs in 3 2/3 innings for the AL East-leading Orioles. Irvin was impressive to begin the season but has failed to make it through five innings in three consecutive starts for a Baltimore staff that has lost Kyle Bradish, John Means and Tyler Wells to season-ending injuries.

Hill opened the scoring with a two-run homer in the second. The Orioles answered with Ryan O'Hearn's RBI single, but the Rangers extended their lead in the fourth when Nathaniel Lowe, Andrew Knizner and Josh Smith hit RBI singles.



AP

Texas Rangers' Wyatt Langford hits a three-run home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Sunday, June 30, 2024, in Baltimore.

KANSAS CITY 6, GUARDIANS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Seth Lugo struck out 10 in six shutout innings to earn his major league-high 11th win, and Salvador Perez hit a two-run homer as Kansas City beat Cleveland.

Bobby Witt Jr. had a run-scoring triple among his three hits for the Royals, who took three of four from the AL Central leaders. Vinnie Pasquantino also had three hits and an RBI.

Lugo (11-2) allowed four hits and one walk in his third straight start with eight or more strikeouts. It was his third double-digit strikeout game of the season.

Perez had an RBI groundout in the first inning and added a two-run shot to left field that made it 6-0 in the seventh. He leads the Royals with 14 home runs.

PIRATES 4, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Oneil Cruz and Rowdy Tellez each hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning, and Pittsburgh beat Atlanta to avoid a three-game sweep.

Bryan Reynolds' 25-game hitting streak ended with two strikeouts and two groundouts in his four at-bats. It was the longest streak in the majors this season and the Pirates' longest since Kenny Lofton's 26-game streak in 2003.

The Pirates' four-run fifth began with a successful challenge resulting in Jack Suwinski being hit by a pitch from Spencer Schwellenbach (1-4). With two outs, Cruz lined a homer that traveled 452 feet to the right-field seats. Cruz's 12th homer had an exit velocity of 117.3 mph.

Schwellenbach walked Edward Olivares before Tellez hit his fourth homer off the right-field foul pole.

RAYS 5, NATIONALS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Taj Bradley tied a career high with 11 strikeouts, Isaac Paredes homered and Tampa Bay beat Washington.

Bradley (3-4) allowed three hits and walked two over 5 2/3 innings in his fifth consecutive strong start. The right-hander has allowed four earned runs in 29 innings over the stretch.

Colin Poche, Jason Adam, Garrett Cleavinger and Phil Maton completed a three-hitter. The Rays finished with 16 strikeouts.

Paredes, who had two hits in 23 at-bats over his previous seven games, went 3 for 4 and scored two runs. He needed a single for the cycle when he flied out against Tanner Rainey in the eighth.

RED SOX 4, PADRES 1

BOSTON (AP)—Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer, Jarren Duran added a solo shot and Boston ended San Diego's five-game winning streak with a victory.

The Red Sox, who were outscored 20-3 in the series' first two games, snapped a three-game skid.

Jackson Merrill had three hits for the Padres, and Ha-Seong Kim added an RBI double. San Diego had won nine of its previous 10 games.

Making his first start since being recalled from Triple-A on Tuesday, Boston right-hander Josh Winckowski (2-1) gave up four hits over five scoreless innings.

YANKEES 8, BLUE JAYS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 31st home run, Gerrit Cole pitched five innings for his first win of the season and New York beat Toronto to split their four-game series.

Juan Soto was a late addition to New York's lineup after sitting out Saturday's loss because of a bruised right hand. The three-time All-Star and 2020 NL batting champion went 1 for 3 with an RBI and two walks.

DJ LeMahieu and Trent Grisham each had two hits and two RBIs for the Yankees. Ben Rice scored twice and drove in a run.

BREWERS 7, CUBS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Brice Turang hit Milwaukee's fifth grand slam in its last eight games as part of a seven-run fourth inning, as they rolled to a victory over Chicago.

Freddy Peralta (6-4) and Jakob Junis combined on a two-hitter to help the NL Central-leading Brewers win their ninth straight home series. Milwaukee hasn't dropped a series at American Family Field since the New York Yankees took two of three from April 26-28.

Milwaukee's highest-scoring inning of the season backed up a sparkling performance from Peralta, who worked seven innings and retired his last 14 batters.

After Nico Hoerner sent Peralta's second pitch of the game over the left field wall, the right-hander bore down and struck out eight while allowing only two hits and two walks. Junis walked one over the final two innings.

CARDINALS 2, REDS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Lance Lynn pitched six sparkling innings, and St. Louis beat Cincinnati for a split of their four-game series.

Lynn (4-3) allowed two hits, struck out six and walked one.

Pedro Pagés had a career-high three hits for St. Louis, which closed out a 7-3 homestand.

Cincinnati infielder Jonathan India extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a double in the third. He has at least one double in each of his last eight games.

Stuart Fairchild singled in the fifth to account for the Reds' only other hit. He stole second but was stranded when Will Benson lined to right and Luke Maile struck out swinging.

PHILLIES 7, MARLINS 6

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Alec Bohm homered, Trea Turner hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh inning and Philadelphia rallied for a victory over Miami.

Nick Castellanos doubled, had two singles and drove in three runs for the Phillies, who upped their MLB-best record to 55-29. Philadelphia played its third straight game without injured All-Star Bryce Harper.

Bryan De La Cruz homered for Miami, which trails the Phillies by 25 games in the NL East.

Philadelphia went in front in the seventh. Andrew Nardi (1-1) walked the first two batters, and they advanced on Rafael Marchán's sacrifice bunt. Nardi got Bryson Stott to fly out to shallow right field for the second out and then was relieved by Anthony Bender. Turner then sent the Phillies in front with a liner into left field that emptied the bases.

ROCKIES 5, WHITE SOX 4, 14 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Ryan McMahon scored on Michael Toglia's sacrifice fly in the 14th inning, and Colorado stopped a five-game slide by topping Chicago.

McMahon began the 14th on second as the automatic runner. He advanced on Sam Hillard's sacrifice bunt.

Toglia then hit a flyball to center, and McMahon narrowly beat the throw home by center fielder Luis Robert Jr. The call on the field was upheld following a video review.

Jalen Beeks (5-4) pitched two innings for the win. He retired the White Sox in order in the 14th.

GIANTS 10, DODGERS 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Matt Chapman homered and drove in three runs, and San Francisco hit a season-high 10 doubles to rout Los Angeles in front of a sellout crowd of 40,428 at Oracle Park.

Every starter had a hit for the Giants, and San Francisco finished with a season-high 11 extra-base hits to take the rubber game for its first series win at home against the rival Dodgers since June 2022.

Los Angeles starter James Paxton (7-2) allowed a career-high nine earned runs and 12 hits in four innings, losing for the first time in four career starts against the Giants.

Jorge Soler, David Villar, Heliot Ramos and Patrick Bailey all had run-scoring doubles as San Francisco scored in each of the first four innings to build a 9-0 lead.

Bailey added another RBI double in the eighth.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ATHLETICS 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Brandon Pfaadt pitched six innings of one-run ball and Blaze Alexander hit a two-run single during Arizona's three-run seventh inning, helping them beat Oakland.

Alexander, batting for Joc Pederson, drove in Geraldo Perdomo and Corbin Carroll with a bases-loaded grounder into left field off Austin Adams. Carroll was batting .196 with 23 strikeouts in 97 at-bats against left-handers before hitting a one-out double off T.J. McFarland (1-1).

TIGERS 7, ANGELS 6

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Justyn-Henry Malloy hit an inside-the-park homer in the fourth inning, Carson Kelly added a three-run homer and Detroit snapped their four-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

The Angels trailed 7-1 entering the ninth inning before Zach Neto hit a three-run homer and Jo Adell added a two-run shot, all with two outs against Shelby Miller.

Tyler Holton came on and calmly struck out Nolan Schanuel to secure his second save and Detroit's third victory in nine games, while the Angels' six-game winning streak ended.

TWINS 5, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Trevor Larnach hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning to extend Minnesota's home run streak to 19 games and lift them to a win over Seattle.

Minnesota set a franchise record for consecutive games with a longball, but it took until the late innings. Larnach drove an 0-1 pitch from reliever Ryne Stanek (5-2) to right-center field for his eighth home run.

Minnesota's 19-game streak is the second-longest in the majors this season behind Baltimore's 22-game home run streak earlier in June. Larnach also had an RBI single in the first inning, while Austin Martin's RBI double and Jose Miranda's RBI single plated a pair in the fifth.

ASTROS 10, METS 5, 11 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Houston moved over .500 for the first time this season, beating New York for their ninth win in 10 games as Jake Myers hit a tiebreaking single in a five-run 11th inning.

Houston star Jose Altuve was ejected in the seventh after he threw his bat and helmet when umpires called him out on what appeared to be a foul ball.

Brandon Nimmo hit his 100th career homer for the Mets, a tying two-run drive in the seventh off Bryan Abreu.

With just a few thousand fans left at Citi Field after a 2-hour, 47-minute rain delay in the middle of the ninth, Chas McCormick put the Astros ahead 5-4 with an RBI single in the 10th off Adam Ottavino.

Paul George will leave Clippers; Chris Paul to Spurs

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Paul George is leaving the Los Angeles Clippers, his now-former team announced Sunday night, with all signs pointing to the nine-time All-Star perhaps returning to the Eastern Conference and joining the Philadelphia 76ers.

George could command more than $200 million over four years if his next contract is for max value.

"Paul has informed us that he is signing his next contract with another team," the Clippers said in a release Sunday night.

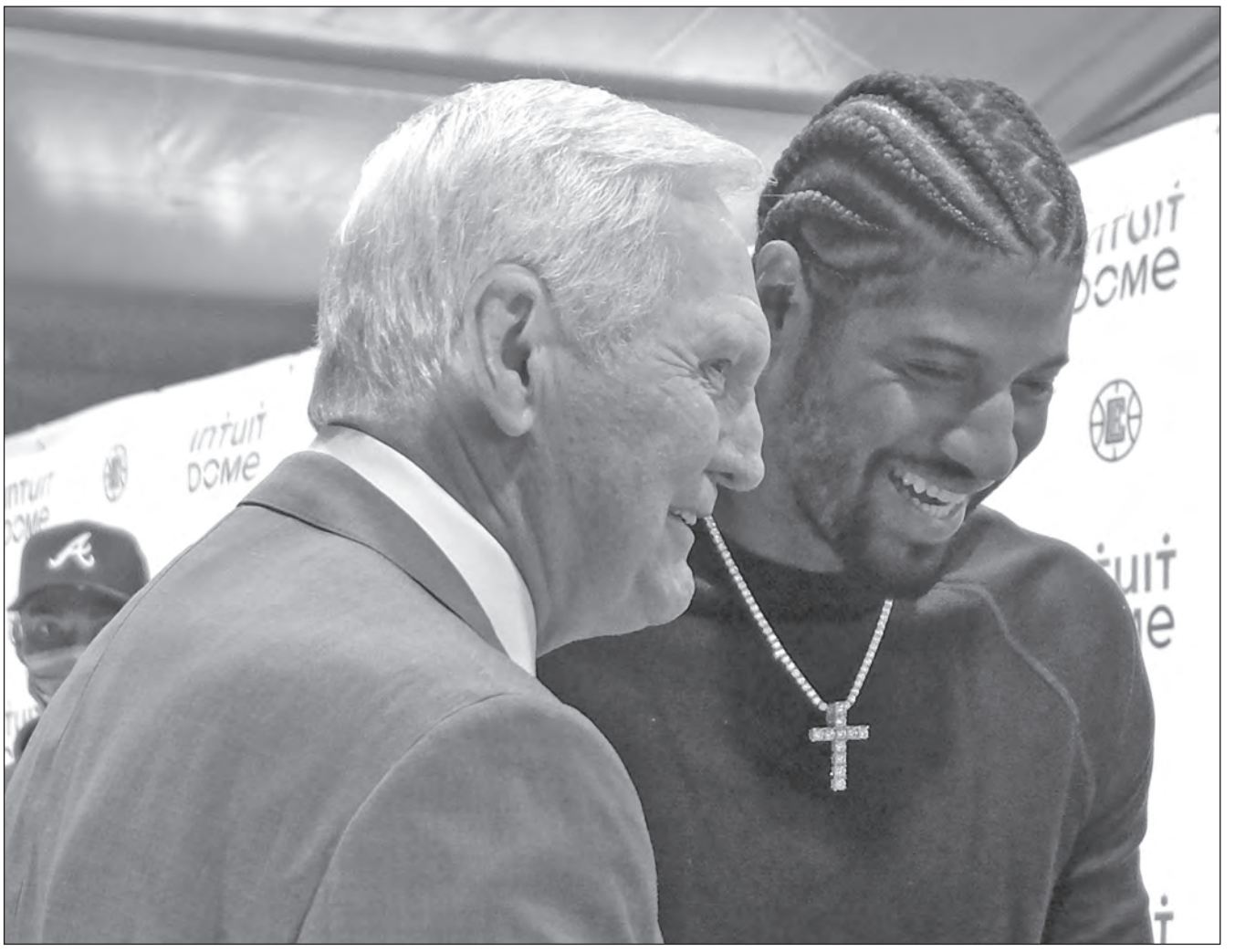
The team added, "We negotiated for months with Paul and his representative on a contract that would make sense for both sides, and we were left far apart. The gap was significant. We understand and respect Paul's decision to look elsewhere for his next contract."

George had a $48.8 million option for this coming season but did not exercise it, entering free agency—which opened Sunday night—instead. It was believed there was a chance that George and the Clippers could have still gotten something done, but the team made clear that those hopes are gone.

"We will miss Paul," the Clippers said.

At 34, George is still elite—averaging 22.6 points this past season, the ninth consecutive season in which he has averaged at least 20 points per game.

Meanwhile, James Harden is staying with the Clippers on a two-year contract that includes a player option, a person with knowledge of that decision told The Associated Press earlier Sunday.



AP

Los Angeles Clippers star Paul George, right, and Jerry West attend a groundbreaking ceremony of the Intuit Dome, Sept. 17, 2021, in Inglewood, Calif.

Harden's deal—which could be worth up to $70 million if he opts into 2025-26—was agreed upon in principle before free agency technically started, said the person who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because neither Harden nor the Clippers had announced the agreement.

Harden, a 10-time NBA All-Star, averaged 16.6 points and 8.5 assists last season for the Clippers, who will move into their new Intuit Dome home when this coming season starts.

Elsewhere, veteran guard Chris Paul is going to team up with rookie of the year Victor Wembanyama in San Antonio on a one-year deal, a person with knowledge of that agreement said.

Paul was waived earlier Sunday by the Golden State Warriors, who would have had to pay him $30 million for the coming season otherwise. ESPN reported the Spurs will pay Paul around $11 million. The 39-year-old Paul averaged 9.2 points and 6.8 assists in 58 games with the Warriors last season.

And Kentavious Caldwell-Pope is going to bring his championship experience to the Orlando Magic, a team that made a big jump this past season and now is trying to become an even stronger contender in the East.

Caldwell-Pope—a two-time champion guard—was finalizing a three-year, $66 million deal with the Magic, a person with knowledge of the decision said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to AP because the deal cannot be finalized until the league's offseason moratorium is lifted on July 6.

It's a big get for the rising Magic, who won 47 games—their most in 13 years—and got back to the playoffs this past season. Caldwell-Pope was part of title-winning teams with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2020 and the Denver Nuggets in 2023. He averaged 10.1 points for the Nuggets this past season while shooting nearly 41% from 3-point range.

In other moves Sunday:

■ Kevin Love was completing a new two-year contract with the Miami Heat worth about $8 million, a person with knowledge of that deal told AP, the move coming one day after he did not opt into what would have been a $4 million contract for this coming season with the club. Love had said repeatedly last season that he has no intentions of leaving Miami.

■ Andre Drummond agreed to a two-year contract worth about $10 million (the second year as an option) to join the Philadelphia 76ers, a team that he appeared in 49 games for during the 2021-22 season. Drummond spent the last two seasons in Chicago — he averaged 8.4 points and 9.0 rebounds this past season in only 17 minutes per game — and would be valuable insurance alongside Joel Embiid in the 76ers' big-man rotation. "I'm in the mood for a Philly cheesesteak," Drummond posted on social media.

■ Obi Toppin is being rewarded nicely for his strong first season with Indiana. A person with knowledge of the agreement said he and the Pacers were finalizing a four-year deal worth nearly $60 million. Toppin averaged a career-best 10.3 points last season, his first with Indiana after three years in New York.

■ Promising wing Max Christie is returning to the Los Angeles Lakers with a four-year, $32 million contract, a person with knowledge of the deal told AP. The 21-year-old Christie averaged 3.8 points, 2.0 rebounds and 0.8 assists during his first two NBA seasons.

■ The NBA set the salary cap at at $140.588 million for the 2024-25 season, down slightly—about $400,000 or so—from what teams had been told to expect. The tax level was set at $170.814 million, the first apron level will be $178.132 million, the second apron level will be $188.931 million, the non-taxpayer mid-level is $12.822 million, the taxpayer mid-level is $5.168 million, and the room mid-level is $7.983 million.

LeBron James intends to sign a new deal with the Lakers, AP source says

LeBron James is going to move toward a new contract with the Los Angeles Lakers. Paul George and Klay Thompson may simply be on the move to new teams.

And the NBA's free agency period, which officially starts Sunday, suddenly has some intrigue.

James did not exercise his option to accept what would have been a $51.4 million contract for this coming season and instead is seeking a new deal with the Los Angeles Lakers, a person with knowledge of the decision said Saturday.

The terms of the new deal could be finalized quickly, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither James nor the Lakers revealed the decision publicly. ESPN, The Athletic and the Los Angeles Times all reported the decision earlier Saturday.

Meanwhile, George made a similar decision, the nine-time All-Star choosing to not opt-in for what would have been a $48.8 million contract this coming season with the Los Angeles Clippers—a team that he's spent the past five years with, averaging 23 points per game. He'll become a free agent and is planning to talk to the Clippers about a new deal and also intends to hear pitches from Orlando and Philadelphia, plus potentially others, a person briefed on George's plans told AP on Saturday night.

Saturday's moves came just ahead of the NBA's free agency period, which formally opens at 6 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, though at least $1.2 billion in contracts already have been agreed upon because of new rules that allowed teams to speak with their own players about new deals—in many situations—starting on the day after the NBA Finals.

Among those already having agreed to deals that cannot be finalized until the new league year opens on July 6: Toronto teammates Scottie Barnes and Immanuel Quickley, Miami's Bam Adebayo, Indiana's Pascal Siakam, and New York's OG Anunoby.

It was expected that James would technically be a free agent. It's also been expected that he would stay with the Lakers.

The Lakers selected Bronny James—LeBron James' oldest son—on Thursday in the second round of the draft, putting them in position to have the first on-court father-son duo in NBA history. And with a new deal, it's even possible that LeBron James could sign for a lower number than he could have commanded to give the Lakers additional financial flexibility for other moves.

"He is prioritizing a roster improvement," James' agent, Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul, told ESPN on Saturday. "He's been adamant about exuding all efforts to improve the roster."

LeBron James is a four-time champion and is about $20 million shy of becoming the first player in league history to top $500 million in on-court earnings. Add in his many off-court ventures and investments, and his net worth has been presumed to be more than $1 billion for some time now.

He'll turn 40 in December and will tie Vince Carter this season in terms of most seasons played in NBA history; the 2024-25 campaign will be James' 22nd in the league. He averaged 25.7 points, 7.3 rebounds and 8.3 assists last season—as the oldest active player in the league.

And if he's going to leave money on the table, he's going to want a player who can help the Lakers contend for a title again. Among the Lakers' potential targets: Golden State's Klay Thompson, a free agent who could be on the move for the first time in his career.

Thompson, a starter on all four of the Warriors' championship teams of this era and half of the famed "Splash Brothers" duo alongside 3-point king Stephen Curry, has spent all 13 of his NBA years with Golden State. And his status — will he go back to the Warriors or not? — is one of the biggest questions that'll be answered in the coming days. It may not be financially possible for Golden State to retain Thompson.

"We want him back. We've said that all along," Warriors general manager Mike Dunleavy said on June 24. "Hopefully he'll come back. But as far as the specifics and discussions and those types of things, I think it's important to keep in-house and that stuff. When we figure out a solution to all that, we'll have news for you." ***(AP)***

Kaia Travilla will head Down Under after FIBA scholarship award

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

NMI National Women's Basketball player and Northern Marianas Basketball Federation's social media content coordinator Kaia Travilla was awarded the FIBA and ABC International Development Program-Women in News and Sport (WINS) social media scholarship after an eight-week program last June 12 and will head Down Under this September.

In Australia, she will be mentored and immersed in media operations, including social media content curation, and will participate in the FIBA 3x3 High Performance Development Program from Sept. 25-29. She will also join the regional WINS Alumni network and might be considered for additional learning and engagement opportunities offered in the future.

The eight-week program was coordinated online from April 10 to May 29.

It consisted of eight topics per week: social media landscape overview, social media integration and content creation essentials, a guest presenter, audience engagement and ethical considerations, social media marketing fundamentals, another guest presenter, personal branding, networking, and collaboration, and finally future trends and continuous learning.

The 20-year-old silver medalist of the NMI women's basketball team in the 10th Micronesian Games at Marshall Islands, said that the program is a great way for her to be given the tools and resources she needs to learn about creating engaging content.

With that, she said, "I will be able to take what I learn and apply it in a way where the federation can promote basketball and the athletes in the CNMI."

The Northern Marianas College business student said she heard about this program through the NMIBF who gave her the opportunity to participate in it.

As for how important and beneficial social media presence is for sports, she said, "Social media in sports is important as it opens up a bigger platform for promoting the presence of events, teams, and athletes; basketball In the CNMI will benefit from this. I look forward to learning about sports in [the] media and the experience I will gain from it."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI National Women's Basketball player and Northern Marianas Basketball Federation's social media content coordinator Kaia Travilla was awarded the FIBA and ABC International Development Program-Women in News and Sport (WINS) social media scholarship and will head to Australia in September.

NMIBF president James Lee said for the federation, their objective is to grow the sport of basketball with modern technology. "We knew the best way to get the message out and grow the popularity aside from our local media partners is through social media. We needed someone that has a passion for basketball and also knows how to connect with the audience with social media and Kaia was perfect for the job. She has kept both our IG and FB page content up to date as far as connecting with the audience and has been quite creative at it as well."

Aside from basketball, he said, "one of the things we have always emphasized is to provide opportunities to our athletes on the island so that they can see that there is more than just where they're at—especially living at an isolated location such as ours. So this opportunity that FIBA has given her is great news for her as well as the NMI."

According to FIBA, the WINS program includes mentoring participants through sports coverage and seeks to promote women in sport from elite to community levels and amplify women's voices in sports coverage, inspiring women across the Pacific, and Asia to get involved in sports media.

WINS is coordinated by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's International Development Unit (ABCID) and is supported by the Australian Government through the Team Up program and builds on two previous phases since WINS began in 2016.

PIKABOO

From page 16

Aboard his trusty 2023 KX250F, Alvarez said the MRA did a tremendous job in fixing the Cowtown Race Park and it made for a wonderful ride.

"They patched up most of the track for this race so the track was extra nice this round. It was a superhot dry and a dusty race. But since the track was refreshed it made it a lot smooth and our tires were gripping and ripping. My dad also put on brand-new tires on our bikes this race so I was really able to grip and hit my lines. Felt great to push myself and I felt extra fast this race," he said.

Alvarez, as usual, thanked a plethora of people for his continued success on Saipan's lone motocross circuit.

"First of all, I'd like to thank God for keeping me and all the racers safe. I'd like to thank my dad for being our mechanic and making sure our bikes are in tip-top shape each round to keep us safe, and my sponsors Trench Tech, Cycles Plus Guam, and 4evercnmi! MRA also for always upkeeping the track and doing all the hard work to keep us riding and racing in Cow Town! It's a dream come true to be back on the bike and racing year-round!" he said.

In the Veterans Class, Alvarez's mechanic and the patriarch of the Trench Tech Racing Team, Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, also churned in a perfect performance after also winning both heats for 50 points. Champi Villacanes was second with his 44 points, while Bob Ferrer finished third with 38 points

T.J. Ferrer, meanwhile, nipped Calix Cruz in the Mini II Class after winning the second heat. Both riders finished in a dead heat with 47 points apiece.

Results of the other classes of the June 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

TOURNEYS

From page 16

youth and up-and-coming badminton athletes because they get to be exposed to different skill levels and experience a different level of play than what they are used to on just the local scale. "It's a really great experience and opportunity," he said.

Jambor welcomed the athletes to the island and said that Crowne Plaza is always proud to sponsor the international tournaments, just as they did last year. "I want to wish the best of luck to the participants," he added.

For Kretzers, he also welcomed the athletes to Saipan and hopes that everyone enjoys the tournament.

Carrel, who was also here last year for the two Olympic badminton qualifiers the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 and the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Northern Marianas Open 2023, said that it's great to be back following the success of those tournaments.

"What we find really exciting is the amount of local interest… Every time we host a tournament, we get more and more people coming to the tournament and watch. We're also seeing significant growth in badminton here in the NMI and that really has got to do with the interscholastic program," she said.

She also mentioned that NMBA won the BWF Member Association Participation Award last April for its Interscholastic Badminton League program that was first introduced in the islands in 2021, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. NMBA was the first member of Badminton Oceania to win the award and is also the first national sports federation in the NMI to win an award from a world governing body of sports.

For Tan, he thanked Carrel for the support of Oceania Badminton and congratulated Tolentino for their award.

He then welcomed the 200 badminton players that's playing in the two tournaments. "If they are a repeater, welcome back—if this is their first time, we hope you all enjoy it and keep coming back. But I just want to wish them the best of luck in the next two weeks," he said. He then thanked the tournaments' sponsors and said, "Without the two title sponsors, it'll be a lot more difficult to organize."

Tolentino, for her part, also thanked the sponsors for their support and said that the NMBA is always honored and grateful for the opportunity to host an international badminton tourney. "We're really thankful to the players for considering our country for your international ranking tournament," she said. "We always treat this as an important moment for the community, not just for our badminton players on the island because we're happy to have visitors from different countries, and hopefully, they also get to enjoy our island."

FOUL

From page 16

was very humid and hot for a few days, so I was worried about it. But on race day, it was gloomy and cloudy. After the first 5K, it was raining, so I wasn't thirsty. The most challenging part was to keep following pacemakers. This time, I tried to follow pacemakers who led for two hours. It was very helpful, but after 18K, I got tired."

Bang then thanked her husband for always being supportive of her running hobby.

"He's the best supporter of my running and races. He always encouraged me to keep taking challenges. I would like to dedicate the latest events to my husband. I have more races I'll try in Korea while I'm here."

Meanwhile, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. also took part in an off-island race after the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji last month where he served as coach/official for Northern Marianas Athletics.

The Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting firefighter competed in the 10.55K of the Munro Leys Suva Marathon hosted by the Suva Marathon Club.

"I ran under the 10.55K race because I was too late for the half marathon registration. Very grateful the race director let me register after the cut off but they only did it for the 10K. I was trying to get in the for the master half marathon."

Dela Cruz said since it was shorter than the half marathon he was expected to enter in, the 10.55K was no sweat for him.

"There weren't any hard parts for me. It was a great flat beautiful course. I'd say the hardest would be for the marathon runners because everytime they looped at the start area they had to stop and get a wrist bracelet to prevent people from cheating and accountability. Felt bad for those guys that had to slow down."

Dela Cruz said the biggest lessons he got from the Munro Leys Suva Marathon was not what he experienced during the 10.55K itself, but how organizers were efficient.

"Their organization structure [gave me quite an impression]. They had more committees and break downs for event days and I want to replicate that here. The biggest take away was from their experience in handling event issues. I was glad we have the exact same setup, however, they provided some great solutions," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	53	31	.631	–
New York	54	32	.628	–
Boston	44	39	.530	8½
Tampa Bay	42	42	.500	11
Toronto	38	45	.458	14½
Central Division				
Cleveland	52	30	.634	–
Minnesota	47	37	.560	6
Kansas City	47	39	.547	7
Detroit	38	46	.452	15
Chicago	24	62	.279	30
West Division				
Seattle	47	39	.547	–
Houston	42	41	.506	3½
Texas	38	46	.452	8
Los Angeles	36	47	.434	9½
Oakland	30	56	.349	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	55	29	.655	–
Atlanta	46	36	.561	8
New York	40	41	.494	13½
Washington	39	44	.470	15½
Miami	30	54	.357	25
Central Division				
Milwaukee	50	34	.595	–
St. Louis	43	40	.518	6½
Pittsburgh	40	43	.482	9½
Cincinnati	39	45	.464	11
Chicago	39	46	.459	11½
West Division				
Los Angeles	52	33	.612	–
San Diego	46	42	.523	7½
Arizona	41	43	.488	10½
San Francisco	41	44	.482	11
Colorado	28	55	.337	23

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‘Pikaboo’ recaptures Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Shane “Pikaboo” Alvarez returned to the throne of the Expert Class in the June 2024 “MOTO IV” Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

MRA MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

The 30-yar-old Financial & Insurance Services Group staff won both heats for a perfect 50 points, while last month’s winner Corry Pangelinan was second with 44 points. Marianas Racing Association president Ellery Cruz was third with 40 points.

See PIKABOO on Page 15

JANIY MOHAMMED
Shane “Pikaboo” Alvarez in action in the Expert Class of the June 2024 “MOTO IV” Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

JANIY MOHAMMED
Shane “Pikaboo” Alvarez (1) goes head-to-head against Corry Pangelinan (905) in the Expert Class of the June 2024 “MOTO IV” Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

CNMI welcomes 200 athletes for two int’l badminton tourneys

LEIGH GASES
From left, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, D&Q resident manager Max Kretzers, Badminton Oceania CEO Julie Carrel, badminton top athletes Edward Lau, Viren Nettashinghe, Hye Jeong Kim, and Riko Gunji, Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, CNMI player/coach Nate Guerrero, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Resort manager Martin Jambor, during the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 and Dove Saipan International 2024 press conference yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Two more international badminton tournaments are bringing athletes from all over the world to the shores of Saipan—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 that starts today, July 2, until July 7—and the Dove Saipan International 2024 from July 9-13.

The Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament will feature athletes from 16 different countries at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and is open to the public.

In a press conference yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan’s Azucena Hall, local media met some of the tournament’s top competitors—Edward Lau, Viren Nettashinghe, Hye Jeong Kim, and Riko Gunji—as well the two tournaments’ major sponsors—Max Kretzers, D&Q resident manager and Martin Jambor, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Resort manager; organizers from the Northern Marianas Badminton Association including president Merlie Tolentino and Nate Guerrero; Badminton Oceania CEO Julie Carrel; and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan.

For Edward Lau of New Zealand, as the recent Oceania champion, he said, “I’m very excited to be here. I’ve always just played with players in the Oceania region, so I’m looking forward to experiencing playing against different players not from the Oceania region.”

His advice to the youth who aspire to achieve what he had in badminton, is to stay disciplined and be consistent in their training.

The tourney’s top ranked player at world’s No. 74, Viren Nettashinghe from Sri Lanka, who qualified for his first Olympics—the 2024 Paris Olympics, said that the competition here will be challenging but that he is also excited and looking forward to it.

Former world No. 3 Kim of South Korea and 2019 World Junior Championship winner Gunji of Japan, who has won two of her last three tournaments this year, also shared their excitement for the tourneys.

Guerrero, who is a CNMI athlete/coach, said that the international tourneys on island are beneficial to the

See TOURNEYS on Page 15

Foul weather foils Bang’s 100K debut

By MARK RABAGO
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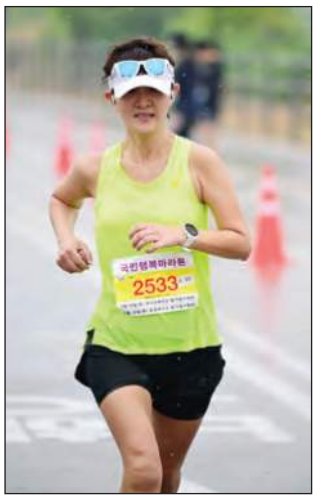
EDITOR

RUN SAIPAN

Run Saipan stalwart Ann Bang took part in another ultramarathon last weekend, but her stint was stymied when organizers pulled the plug on the 4th Mungyeong Ultramarathon 100K due to bad weather.

Held at North Gyeongsang Province in South Korea, the Mungyeong Ultramarathon was plagued with torrential rains and Bang said she had no choice but cut her race short at the 52-kilometer mark. At the time she’d been running for 6 hours and 37 minutes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. in action in last month’s 10.55K of the Munro Leys Suva Marathon in Fiji.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ann Bang runs the 4th Mungyeong Ultramarathon 100K last Saturday at North Gyeongsang Province in South Korea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ann Bang at the “finish line” of the 4th Mungyeong Ultramarathon 100K.

“Near 1am, organizers decided to stop the race due to bad weather because they received many complaints from residents who were concerned about safety. The hardest part was the bad weather. The severe rain poured out throughout the race, and it was getting worse as it got dark,” said the 50-year-old.

While she didn’t like how her debut ended, Bang was still appreciative of getting the chance to run a 100K and how she was welcomed by her fellow ultramarathoners.

“The impressive part was that a few runners who were ultramarathon masters were willing to help and lead me throughout the race. They introduced me to their friends, as I came from Saipan to join this race, and gave me several tips for the race. They didn’t even know me, but they were very kind and encouraged me,” she said.

As for how she trained, the longtime CNMI resident said the old reliable Long Slow Distance training helped her a lot to prepare for the 4th Mungyeong Ultramarathon 100K.

“Actually, I prefer long-distance running to sprinting. So, I’ve always tried not only a full marathon but also an ultramarathon! Apparently, an ultramarathon is very tough, but I think it’s worth trying For trying an ultramarathon, I always run with LSD and uphill training in my daily routine. I think I prepared for this race since I ran 50K to celebrate my 50th birthday,” she said.

A week prior, Bang also took part in the 14th National Happiness Marathon last June 22 and finished it in under 2 hours— 1:59:16.

“Ironically, the best part was the weather. Before the race, it

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